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PART II.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS

IN THE

ASIATIC PROVINCES OF TURKEY.

(In continuation of Confidential Paper No. 4072.)

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Correspondence respecting Administrative Reforms in the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey.

Part II.

No. 1.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8, 1880.)

(No. 26.) *Sivas, November* 20, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of despatches which I have received from Captains Stewart and Cooper and Lieutenant Kitchener respecting affairs in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 1.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant Colonel Wilson.

Kaisarieh, October 25, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 15th September, I have the honour to report that, in accordance with orders received from Constantinople, Hadji Raouf Bey has proceeded to Angora to answer the objections made to his appointment as Assistant Judge in the Bedirt Meshkéméci by the people of Kaisarieh.

2. Two days ago a telegram was received here summoning the plaintiff to Angora.

So deep is the antipathy to Hadji Raouf Bey, that there are many among these who signed the petition ready to go to the trouble and expense of the journey from Kaisarieh to Angora.

3. The reasons set forth in the petition as to the unsuitability of Hadji Raouf Bey for the appointment of Judge were (1) accounting for coin belonging to the Temiz Medjliss as caïmé, and sharing in the profits thus made; (2) unlawful detention and release of prisoners.

From what I could gather at Angora, both the above charges are borne out by records in the vilayet archives, and it seems a needless delay to put the petitioners to the expense and trouble of a journey of 300 miles to state what is already officially known.

4. As the original order for Hadji Raouf Bey did not make any reference to the petitioners being also required at Angora, the present summons has had a very depressing effect, the people of Kaisarieh regarding it as a sign that Hadji Raouf Bey has been able

to exert sufficient influence to delay proceedings, and fears are entertained that he may, as in former cases, escape judgment.

5. If Hadji Raouf Bey be confirmed in the appointment of Assistant Judge in the Bedirt Meshkéméci, there is an end to all chance of seeing justice administered in the law courts of this sandjak.

Now that the man is out of the way even for a while people speak out more plainly, and his rule in the Medjliss must have been most barefaced extortion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 1.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson, October 26, 1879.

[Already printed.]

Inclosure 3 in No. 1.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Kaisarieh, October 27, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatches of the 13th and 29th ultimo, I have to report further acts of highway robbery.

Early in the month three zaptiehs, armed, but without ammunition, were stopped by twelve men in the neighbourhood of Indschesu. Their Winchester rifles were afterwards found; it is supposed the robbers were afraid to carry Government arms from fear of detection.

About a fortnight ago, during the night, a band of armed men entered a khan on the Adana road, near Bereketh Maden, and carried off a large amount of coin; the same band robbed a party of travellers the following day of £ T. 200 and several horses.

As these outrages occurred during my absence at Angora, I have been unable to procure trustworthy details, but they appear to be the most glaring in a long list.

2. The Mutessarif has been stirred into action, and has been moving about the sandjak with his zaptiehs. The telegraph has been hard at work, and the authorities generally are trying to restore order.

It is almost needless to say their efforts have been unsuccessful. The force of zaptiehs is far too small to cope with the disorder, now that the robbers have gained such a head, and there is no one to direct operations.

3. The Mutessarif has applied for 100 cavalry to be quartered in this sandjak. It is absolutely necessary that some organized force should be sent here without delay if the caravan routes are to be kept open.

4. In a former despatch of the 13th ultimo, I have drawn attention to the necessity of appointing some capable officer to the zaptiehs at Kaisarieh, and when at Angora, I did my best to impress the Vali with its importance. If cavalry are sent here it would be advisable to name some superior officer to the command of all forces, both military and police, in the Sandjaks of Kaisarieh (Angora Vilayet), Sis (Adana), Nigdeh (Konieh), and the Kaïmakamlik of Azizieh (Sivas).

5. Tek Tashak habitually resides in Azizieh, and, under care of the Anti-Taurus, moves from place to place, keeping the country to the west from Ak-Dagh Maden in the north to Nigdeh on the south in constant alarm.

If all the deeds attributed to this robber were true he would be ubiquitous; but his capture would have a very salutary effect as an example to others. And it is to be hoped that whoever comes to this part of Anatolia in command of the Turkish forces may have orders to take Tek Tashak, dead or alive.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 1.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Kaisarieh, October 27, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to report that Kalouste Sagheryan was released from prison on the 7th instant, on his brother's bail.

2. The care of Sebouhe and Ohannesse, the former Directors of the Kaisarieh powder factory, is now under examination by the Mouhakéméci Koukouk at Constantinople. Yet the local authorities here decline to give up the bonds they hold from Kalouste Sagheryan.

As long as these are not restored, Kalouste is liable to be thrown into prison, and it is desirable that an order should be issued from the High Court of Justice that they should be returned to Kalouste Sagheryan without delay.

3. When at Angora, I spoke to the Vali about the case, but Khourschid Pasha knew nothing of it, and referred me to the Moudaioumoun, who seemed scarcely better informed, and who was acting under orders from Constantinople.

4. Kalouste could not redeem his first bond, as the fulfilment was frustrated by the deliberate action of the Tophane, but now that the case of Sebouhe and Ohannesse is actually under examination, Kalouste ought to be allowed to go free.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 1.

Lieutenant Kitchener to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Ada Bazar, September 23, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches sent by me to his Excellency the Ambassador relating to the state of this district. I beg to inform you that, on receipt of your telegram directing me to consult the Ambassador as to my movements, I at once communicated with his Excellency.

The Turkish Commissioner left next day, and I telegraphed to the Ambassador to that effect, stating that the town was left without any official; the same day I received a reply to my previous telegram asking for orders, directing me to proceed to my post if there was nothing to detain me.

I immediately made preparations for my departure, and telegraphed to the Ambassador to that effect. The Christian population were much alarmed at my leaving, and I received a deputation, headed by the Armenian Bishop, imploring me not to go. The Christians also sent a special Envoy to Constantinople to urge the Armenian Patriarch to move the Ambassador to allow me to remain. I therefore telegraphed to the Ambassador: "Christian population strongly oppose my departure; will wait your orders." To this I received the following reply: "Unless you think it necessary to leave you might remain a few days longer. Your presence has already overtaken a very salutary effect."

A new Kaïmakam, Javad Bey, arrived on the 6th, and I urged on him measures for the security of the population and the capture of certain offenders; he has up to the present acted extremely well, though placed in a difficult position from want of soldiers.

I waited for the post on the 14th, expecting directions from the Ambassador; as none arrived I had intended leaving at once for my post. Unfortunately, on that day the former Kaïmakam of this place was murdered by Circassians near Ismid. I telegraphed to the Ambassador: "The former Lieutenant-Governor of this place has been murdered by Circassians on the Ismid road. There have been some cases of robbery lately. The Governor of Ismid does nothing. Shall I go there, or to my post? Cannot do anything here to stop outrages."

I have received no reply to this.

On the 17th the worst prisoner escaped from confinement here, the gaolers being accomplices. As this Circassian named Isaac had committed several murders, and was much feared, and the police being quite insufficient to effect his recapture, or even to guard the rest, I telegraphed to the Ambassador: "Notorious Circassian murderer escaped from prison yesterday. Police insufficient; cannot effect recapture. Porte has

done nothing since my arrival. I think I could be useful at Ismid. Lieutenant-Governor here well-disposed." To this I have received no reply.

I pointed out to the Kaïmakam the danger of not properly guarding the prisoners, and he put the gaoler accomplices in prison. Next night four more escaped, causing a panic in the town. I visited the prison; there are only five zaptiehs, and as they have not received any pay for two months, the Kaïmakam has no confidence in them.

On the 20th I telegraphed to you for orders, stating the state of affairs here.

On the evening of the 22nd I received a telegram from Mr. Malet, informing me, if I thought it necessary, I might proceed to Ismid. I replied: "Murderers of Lieutenant-Governor found. District quiet; no use going to Ismid. Shall leave for post to-day." My reason for proposing to go to Ismid was that I heard, on what I thought good authority, that the murderer of the Kaïmakam was the brother of Kambulat Bey, and also that a celebrated murderer (Hassan Bey) had escaped from prison there. This information proved false, and I therefore saw no pressing need for my presence at Ismid.

I leave for Kastamuni to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. KITCHENER.

Inclosure 6 in No. 1.

Lieutenant Kitchener to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Ada Bazar, August* 30, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have to-day received a deputation from the refugees from Soukhoum Kaleh. They state that they number about 2,000 in this district, and that they are not Circassians, but Abbas. At the time of the Russian advance on Soukhoum Kaleh they were taken away by the Turks almost as prisoners; they were promised lands and sufficient money to start them elsewhere. At first they were given a ration ("tahui") of 1 piastre a-day for adults and 20 paras for young children; this lasted for fourteen months, during the time of caïmé money; since then they have received nothing.

They have nothing to eat; their children cry for food and they have nothing to give them; they live on vegetables, but very shortly there will be no more to be had; they have no houses or lands, and sleep under trees.

They admit that some of them are robbers, but state that hunger has driven them to it. They have petitioned Ibrahim Bey, the Turkish Commissioner, to give them some rations, and he replied that he had telegraphed to the Porte to be allowed to do so, but that no answer has come.

Their great desire is to return to their country, and they want to know whether Russia would allow them to do so; they have no means of making their case known to the Russian Ambassador, and implore your Excellency to consider their case. They state that the majority of them are Christians, and that in their own country they have houses, lands, and relations.

They state they are quite ready to work for their livelihood, and that they would be loyal and good subjects if only means of subsistence were allowed them.

I beg to submit to your Excellency that some decision of the Sublime Porte is absolutely necessary for the safety of the district, and to prevent these people from dying of want, either to negotiate with Russia for their return to their homes at Soukhoum Kaleh, or to fulfil its promises to these poor people, and give them some means of subsistence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. KITCHENER.

Inclosure 7 in No. 1.

Lieutenant Kitchener to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Ada Bazar, September* 3, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received a large number of petitions from Mahommedans as well as Christians with reference to the outrages committed in this district by the Circassians.

The result of these cases appears to be, that the Circassians rob with impunity upon the public roads and in houses, occasionally using violence; that they drive the owners of land off their properties and take the harvest; at the same time the proprietors have to pay taxes to the Government on land they cannot visit. In some parts agriculture is quite stopped, the Circassians having robbed the people of all their horses and cattle, and occupied their land. The inhabitants of several villages declare they can no longer exist if this state of things continues.

Mesaoglou Ahmed, Mussulman Headman of the village of Molakeuï, states he has been robbed of all he possesses by the Circassians, who have ruined his village; though he knows the offenders the Government will do nothing. He further states that he was to-day put in prison because he was coming to inform me of his case.

Rumulu Usef, Armenian of the village of Agatchilli, states, 1½ months ago he was stopped on the road by seven Circassians, who robbed him of his horse, clothes, and 7,000 piastres.

Fifteen days ago he bought a horse which was stolen next day: 12 days ago, with three others, he was robbed on the road in day-time by seven Circassians, and was left naked.

Seven days ago the Circassians entered his house by night, and cleared him out completely. The Government have taken no steps.

Sefset Kasha Arsha, Mahommedan woman from Karyalla, states she was robbed of all she had and her husband killed. The Circassians were taken, and she was able to prove the case, but they have been allowed to escape.

Tambaz Ohannès, Armenian of Ada Bazar, has been robbed in the last year of five horses with merchandize; he found Circassians, but nothing was done. One month ago Circassians stole his cow at Sabanja; his brother was beaten to death. Last Tuesday, with others, he was attacked on the road by seven Circassians and robbed of all he possessed. Case was proved in Court, but the robbers have since been let out of prison.

Nazaretian, one of the richest Armenians of Ada Bazar, had his shop broken open last Sunday, and was robbed of 540 liras; he declares he cannot get justice. Deputation of Priests and Turkish Headmen of the village of Feïrizli state their fields are occupied by Circassians; they cannot work, and have to pay taxes. They know the Circassians well, but can get no justice. Long list of cows, buffaloes, and horses stolen.

Deputation from Yeni-Keui to the same effect. Deputation, two Christians, and one Mussulman from Sheikler to the same effect; they state 3,000 domuns are left out of cultivation; that they are ruined and can no longer exist. Last night the Circassians stole a pair of buffaloes.

Mehmed, Mahommedan of Hanla-Keui, had his cow stolen last April. He petitioned the Government, for which the Circassians beat him and took all he had; many others in his village have suffered considerably; their houses have been robbed and burnt, and their fields are occupied by Circassians; they used to have forty pairs of buffaloes, and now they have only ten pairs; he declares they can no longer exist if such a state of things continues.

Petition from the village of Kayalar Kioili, signed by Armenians and Turks, states that they have to pay black mail to Kamboullah Bey. Hadji Kassim Oglou, from the same village, states that he has been robbed of all he possessed by Kamboullah Bey.

Stephen, Armenian of Ada Bazar, was robbed on the road, cut down with a sabre, and received a ball in his head. He barely survived; knows the Circassians, but the Government will do nothing. Representative of the Greek village of Sardonani states during the last year one boy has been killed, and presents a long list of animals stolen, states that their grounds are occupied by the Circassians by force, and that when the Government was petitioned the Circassians burnt their houses. Mehmet Handakliolu, of Kaimas, has been robbed in the last nine months of two buffaloes, one cow, and one ox; he has petitioned the Government without any result.

I have received thirty more cases of similar robberies that have occurred lately, and one case of murder.

I beg to recommend to your Excellency that a superior Turkish official, with full powers and a force of regular troops, be sent to this district without loss of time.

I am convinced that if some cases were severely dealt with, the present state of insecurity would cease. I have to-day telegraphed to inform your Excellency of the departure of the Turkish Commissioner, Ibrahim Bey.

I have received a deputation from the Armenian, Greek, and Protestant communities, headed by the Armenian Bishop, to ask my advice under the circumstances.

The only official left is the Acting Kaïmakam, who is a Circassian, and who has

only one or two Circassian zaptiehs under his orders. The Christians express their great alarm, and implore your Excellency to move the Porte to send them some prompt assistance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. KITCHENER.

Inclosure 8 in No. 1.

Lieutenant Kitchener to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Ada Bazar, September* 8, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency two petitions presented to me by the Christian population of Ada Bazar, enumerating the cases of robbery, &c., committed by the Circassians of this district.

I beg to inform your Excellency of the arrival of a Kaïmakam, Javad Bey; he has informed me that he will take active measures to suppress any irregularities. I am already informed that some measures are being taken to arrest certain malefactors.

As I informed your Excellency in a previous despatch, some regular soldiers are greatly needed in this district, in order to take prisoners and to carry out the disarmament of the Circassian refugees.

The Abbas from Soukhoum Kaleh have been to me for an answer. Their case is very deplorable, and I hope your Excellency will obtain some decision from the Porte in their favour. I have been informed by the authorities here that some of them have already died of hunger. I have seen the plan of some works on which it is proposed to employ these men, should the Porte allow them the "tahiu" or ration.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram, directing me to remain here a few days longer.

No outrages have recently occurred, and although the roads are not safe, life and property in this town are, I believe, perfectly secure.

Yesterday some Circassians attempted to sell a Bulgarian chalice to an Armenian, on which the Armenians seized the chalice, and, after some resistance, drove the Circassians away by declaring the English Consul was coming.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. KITCHENER.

Inclosure 9 in No. 1.

Lieutenant Kitchener to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Ada Bazar, September* 9, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have received a petition signed by a large number (almost 500) of women of Ada Bazar, in which they state that, owing to the maladministration of the Turkish authorities, they and their husbands suffer from continual robberies and murders, and that now they hope that England will introduce some reforms, and will not allow such a state of things to continue.

They request me to inform your Excellency that they pray, with tears, that your Excellency will save them from the Circassians and from the dreadful state in which they are at present, and that they will ever pray for your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. KITCHENER.

Inclosure 10 in No. 1.

Lieutenant Kitchener to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Ada Bazar, September* 22, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, by telegram, of the murder of the former Kaïmakam, near Ismid, by Circassians, on the 14th instant. The present Kaïmakam has informed me that the murderers have been discovered.

On the 18th one of the worst prisoners, a Circassian, named Isaac, escaped from prison here, and next day four others escaped, causing a panic in the town. I visited the

prison, and urged on the Kaïmakam measures of precaution, which were taken, and parties of armed Circassians were sent out after the fugitives. The Kaïmakam complains that he can put no reliance on the zaptiehs he has at his disposal (only five), as they have not been paid for two months.

I am convinced that a good Mutessarif at Ismid could soon restore order to this district. The present Mutessarif, Faizi Bey, does not appear to take active measures to stop the present state of brigandage, and I strongly recommend to your Excellency the advantages that would accrue from a change of the Governor.

The Circassians being armed, by nature fearless, and many of them extremely poor, they will always attempt to oppress the timid Christians unless the Government is prepared to protect the latter against their lawless proceedings.

A severe and active Mutessarif is therefore very necessary, and the appointment of a Vice-Consul for the Sandjak of Ismid would greatly tend to the security of the district.

The Circassian Beys have informed me that they are anxious that the present state of things should cease, and would greatly prefer to live at peace with their neighbours; still there is no doubt that they profit by the crimes committed by their slaves, at their instigation. It is difficult to find out anything for certain; but I feel convinced that if the power of the three following Beys—Kambullat Bey, Kashbullat Bey, and Bey Oglou Totlasda—was broken, that the rest would live peaceably.

The amount robbed from the villages of this district amounts to over £ T. 100,000 in the last ten years, and during the last three years it has been increasing.

The Abbas refugees from Soukhoum Kaleh have been again to see me. In a former despatch I brought their case before your Excellency. They are very anxious to return to their country, and stated that they intended sending a deputation to Constantinople to wait upon your Excellency.

I beg to bring to your Excellency's notice the present Kaïmakam of Ada Bazar, Javad Bey. He has acted with energy and ability since he has been here; had he some more soldiers I feel sure the roads would soon be safe, and the present state of brigandage would cease.

Since I have been here nothing has been done by the Sublime Porte to ameliorate the state of the district. The Turkish Commissioner for the Circassians, Ibrahim Bey, was recalled shortly after my arrival, and no one has been appointed in his place. Were a good man, with full powers, appointed, and some soldiers allowed him, the district would very soon be perfectly quiet.

The most necessary measures to be taken by the Sublime Porte are, first, the sending of sufficient regular soldiers to guard the roads and to capture prisoners; and, secondly, the appointment of a good Mutessarif for Ismid and a Commissioner for the Circassians of the district, with full powers.

I beg to inform your Excellency that I leave for my post to-morrow. I informed your Excellency that I thought I might be useful at Ismid; since then I have heard of the discovery of the murderers of the Kaïmakam, and that some other information I had received was false. I am therefore of the opinion that it would be useless to go there.

I beg to inclose a letter received from his reverence the Armenian Bishop.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. KITCHENER.

Inclosure 11 in No. 1.

Lieutenant Kitchener to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Sir, *Kastamuni, November* 6, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you of the arrival of a new Vali for this district, his Excellency Kalib Pasha, late Vali of Aleppo.

The late Acting Vali, his Excellency Arif Pasha, left yesterday for Constantinople, and, owing to his Excellency's impending removal, nothing has been done during the last six weeks to reform existing abuses in this vilayet.

I intend to bring strongly to the notice of his Excellency Ghalib Pasha the existing maladministration of justice and the bribery in the Courts of Law; also the incapacity of the Inspector sent lately from Constantinople to introduce some order in the Courts of Justice here.

I am informed that an English officer of the Turkish gendarmerie, Colonel Fawcett, will shortly arrive to reorganize the police force of the vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. H. KITCHENER.

Inclosure 12 in No. 1.

Captain Stewart to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Konieh, October 15, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter, dated 5th September, with inclosure.

2. I have also the honour to inform you that I returned yesterday from a journey in the eastern districts of the vilayet.

3. When at Ak Serai and at Bor the inhabitants complained to me of the Kaïmakams of both those places.

4. I brought their complaints to the notice of the Vali by letter, a copy of which I inclose.

5. The Vali has suspended the Ak Serai Kaïmakam, and ordered inquiries to be instituted in both cases.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 13 in No. 1.

Letter forwarded to Ali Riza Bey on the Kaïmakams of Bor and Ak Serai, with a request that he should read it to the Vali.

DURANT mon séjour à Ak Serai j'ai reçu beaucoup de plaintes sur le Caïmacam. On l'accuse de l'entente avec les Tcherkess de ne pas agir honnêtement, de vol, et d'incapacité, et ainsi de suite. A Nigdé j'ai parlé au Mutessarif sur ce sujet. Lui aussi avait entendu que les affaires ne marchent pas bien à Ak Serai. Il a télégraphié au Vali pour demander la mise en accusation du Caïmacam, et j'espère bien que son Excellence lui aura accordé la permission.

A Bor, près de Nigdé, j'ai aussi trouvé que les affaires ne marchent pas bien. Le Caïmacam ne me paraît pas être à la hauteur de ses fonctions; tout le monde, tant soit Musulman que Chrétien, se plaint de son incapacité. On m'a dit il y a quelques mois qu'on avait envoyé un Mahzér au Vali avec à peu près 150 signatures, priant pour un meilleur Gouverneur. J'ai causé assez ouvertement avec le Caïmacam au sujet de son Caïmacamlic et je lui ai dit que je serai obligé de faire un rapport sur ce sujet. Le Cadi de Bor m'a aussi fait un bien mauvais offet. Le Mutessarif de Nigdé me dit qu'il espère pouvoir se débarrasser de ce dernier, qui paraît avoir agi contre la loi au sujet de recrutement. Je vous serai bien obligé d'expliquer cette lettre au Vali, et de le prier d'ordonner une enquête sur les affaires. Pour moi il faudra que j'en fasse un rapport, et je voudrai bien pouvoir y dire que les autorités ont agi avec vigueur.

Inclosure 14 in No. 1.

Captain Stewart to Sir A. H. Layard.

Konieh, October 23, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the present state of the Courts in this vilayet.

2. According to orders received from Stamboul some three or four months ago the Istinaff and Bedayet Courts have each been divided into a civil and criminal branch, each with its own President, members, &c. To each sanjak a Mouddaï-Oumoum on a salary of 2,000 piastres for the vilayet, a Mouddaï-Oumoum on a salary of 4,000 piastres, and a Mufettish on a salary of 10,000 piastres a-month have been appointed.

3. Owing to these alterations the Courts both here and all through the vilayet are in a most disorganized state, nor at the present rate of progress do I see much chance of their improving.

4. The Mufettish or inspector for the vilayet informs me that he experiences the greatest difficulty in finding properly qualified members, clerks, &c. He states that the salaries of the under clerks (300 piastres a-month) are quite insufficient to command properly qualified and trustworthy persons; also that the number of clerks allowed is quite insufficient.

5. However this may be, I am decidedly of opinion that there has been a want of energy and ability both on his own and his officials' part.

6. With reference to these alterations there is no one, either official or non-official, with whom I have spoken who does not disapprove of them, with the exception of the Cadi, who, as President of the Sheri and Istinaff, was, if he did his duty, overworked, all assert that the old system, if properly carried out and strengthened by a few more writers, was amply sufficient for all present needs. Also that the present is a very inopportune moment, when money is so urgently required, and when the salaries of so many of the officials are in arrears, to increase the law expenditure by about 48,000 piastres a-month.

7. It is only the other day that orders came to cut down by 10 per cent. the salaries of all officials, including probably those drawing from 200 to 300 piastres a-month.

8. On the 20th instant orders were received to stop the export of corn.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 15 in No. 1.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Kaisarieh, November 11 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to paragraph 9 of my despatch of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to report that an order was received here to-day to raise £T. 15,000, repayable with interest next year.

A meeting is to be held to-morrow to determine the manner in which the money is to be collected, but I hear that there is very great disinclination to subscribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 27.)

Sivas, November 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relating to affairs in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, November 13, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency a letter, with its inclosures, which I have received from the Armenian Bishop of Sivas. The inclosures are translations of petitions addressed by the Bishop to his Excellency the Vali relating to Mir Ali, who is of Persian origin, and to Mehemet Ali Effendi, of Sivas, men whose names I have already had occasion to bring to your Excellency's notice.

With regard to Mir Ali, it is said that he rendered great services to the Turkish Government during the war, and that on the conclusion of peace he came to Sivas to settle; that the great reputation he acquired during the war induced many men of the same tribe to follow him; that on his arrival at Sivas he proclaimed himself to be the Chief of the men, in order to give himself greater consequence; that he has never in reality had any control over his so-called followers; and that he has never personally committed any outrage since he has been in the vilayet. On the other hand, it is maintained that his chief occupation during the war was the plunder of Armenian villages in rear of the army, and that he first rose to favour when Ismail Kurd Pasha succeeded

Ghazi Moukhtar at Erzeroum. Whether the men who came with Mir Ali were his followers or not, there is no doubt that, since his arrival at Sivas, he has exercised considerable influence over them. Cases, apparently well authenticated, have been brought to my notice in which stolen property has been restored to its owners through his mediation.

Whilst travelling in September last numerous complaints were made to me by Moslems and Christians of the robberies committed by Mir Ali's men, and of the manner in which they lived at free quarters on, and extorted forced labour from, the villagers. I brought the name of Mir Ali to the notice of the Vali soon after his arrival, and spoke to his Excellency about him after receiving the Bishop's letter. Abedin Pasha told me that he saw that it was impossible for Mir Ali and the Armenians to live peaceably together, and that he had advised the former to go to Constantinople and arrange with the authorities as to his future place of residence. My own impression is that Mir Ali has influential friends at Stamboul, and is too powerful a man to be dealt with in the vilayet.

I am informed that he left for Samsoon this morning. Abedin Pasha is a man of great energy, and as long as he remains at Sivas he will keep order in the vilayet; but I think it would hardly be desirable to allow Mir Ali to return. The Bishop places the number of Mir Ali's followers at more than 200. This is, I think, an exaggeration; as far as I could learn from the villagers there are not more than sixty, a number which agrees with that I received from the Local Government. Very few of the men brought their wives with them, and in the event of any future complications they will form a fertile source of disturbance. As refugees they must be settled down somewhere, and to drive them away from Sivas would only be to transfer the evil elsewhere. The extraordinary movement amongst the Moslem population which has been caused by the war should not be lost sight of in connection with the introduction of reforms, and the course of future events.

The case of Mehemet Ali Effendi is a very different one. For the last ten years he has virtually governed the vilayet and appointed the subordinate officials. In the Courts of every sandjak and caza there are men recognized as being devoted to his interests, and it is hardly too much to say that no case brought before the Courts has been decided contrary to his interests or expressed wish. He has also been the well-known protector of the most notorious robbers of the vilayet. Your Excellency is already aware of the early career of Mehemet Ali, who is now one of the most wealthy men in Sivas. He is an unscrupulous man of great energy, and the deplorable state of the vilayet when I reached Sivas is the best comment on the way in which he wielded the extraordinary power which he possessed. Your Excellency will observe that the Bishop's petition is drawn up in general terms. Either through fear, or a feeling that justice will not be be obtained, no definite accusation has yet been brought against Mehemet Ali, and this makes it difficult to deal with the matter.

I understand that there is another petition in existence of the same nature, signed by leading Christians and Moslems of Sivas, but for some reason it has not been presented to the Vali. Unfortunately, the whole case is complicated by personal jealousies, and Mehemet Ali finds supporters amongst some of the influential Armenians.

During Abedin Pasha's tenure of office, Mehemet Ali's influence will be comparatively slight, but when he goes the state of affairs will be as bad as ever—probably worse. I am informed that Mehemet Ali has told his friends that he intends to reopen some cases which have recently been decided against his interests when the present Vali leaves. I trust, however, that the elections now in progress will result in the return of men who are more independent than the present members.

In a conversation with Abedin Pasha, his Excellency told me that he could not take notice of a general complaint such as that made by the Bishop, but that if any definite accusation were brought against Mehemet Ali he would treat him like any other man who had been accused of committing a crime.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Archbishop Bedros to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Sivas, le 22 Octobre / 3 Novembre, 1879.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous remettre ci-inclus la traduction Française d'un Takir adressé à son Excellence le Vali de Sivas, au sujet de Mehmet Ali Effendi, protecteur des malfaiteurs de notre vilayet, d'une part, et du rapport succinct des méfaits de Mir Ali de l'autre.

Dans l'espoir que votre Excellence voudra bien les prendre en considération, j'ai &c.

L'Archevêque Arménien de Sivas,
(Signé) BEDROS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Statement of Crimes committed by Mir Ali and his followers.

DANS le village Arménien de Govdoun, distant de trois heures, les hommes de Mir Ali ont tué le nommé Ghamghiamassian et ont blessé plusieurs autres. Cette affaire, bien qu'elle soit portée devant le Tribunal de Temiz-Houbouk alors, aucune décision n'a été prise, aucune sentence n'a été prononcée contre ces hommes.

2. Dans le Caza de Kotchkiri, des habitants du Nahié de Tchit, le fils de Kapoumahmoud (Kurde) a été tué par les hommes de Mir Ali.

3. Du village de Déliklitach le nommé Yaghdji Oglou Ahmed a été blessé d'un coup de fusil par les hommes du même brigand; ce fait est déclaré à l'autorité.

4. Du village de Kara-Hadjinli l'Arménien Assadour a été blessé d'un coup de poignard porté par les hommes de Mir Ali; le blessé et le malfaiteur se trouvent maintenant à Sivas.

5. Du village de Kortmé, Hussein Kiahya a été attelé par force, en guise de bœuf, à la voiture, par Mir Ali lui-même.

6. Bien que le Mudir et le Cadi du Nahié se trouvaient dans le village de Karassar un des hommes de Mir Ali a emporté, pendant la nuit, le cheval de valeur de 3,000 piastres du même Hadji Ali.

7. Une partie des terrains, prairie, et la bergerie du même village ont été occupées par force de la part de Mir Ali lui-même.

8. Dans le village de Kupeli, quelques champs de blé ont été faits brouter par les chevaux; les mêmes champs se trouvent maintenant en possession de Mir Ali.

9. Suivant les manières habituelles, les hommes de Mir Ali se sont présentés dans les villages Arméniens de Zavra, Govdoun, Toutmatch, Toussassar, &c., et ont demandé des voitures de transport avec toute sorte de blasphèmes; les paysans ont été obligés, pour s'en débarrasser, de payer de l'argent et tout ce qu'ils ont demandé.

10. Ce qui est très-certain, c'est que plusieurs de ses hommes sont dispersés dans les villages, leur nourriture et celle de leurs chevaux étant à la charge des habitants depuis plusieurs mois.

11. Mir Ali lui-même s'est rendu au village de Yahyali, dans l'Ak-dagh; a fait charger par force quatre-vingt voitures de bois pour faire venir chez lui sans payer un seul para.

12. Mir Ali, après avoir fait construire gratuitement deux grandes maisons aux paysans de Eski Karahissar, dans le Caza de Kangal, conduit par force; vingt-cinq de leurs voitures dans la forêt d'Ak-dagh, fait charger des bois pour porter chez lui; dans ce travail plusieurs bestiaux ont été endommagés.

Il y a encore d'autres faits de ce genre qui s'accomplissent dans les villages; la raison qu'ils ne sont pas déclarés à l'autorité, c'est que les plaintes ne sont jamais prises en considération, et les malfaiteurs ne sont jamais punis.

Ce fameux brigand Mir Ali, accompagné de plus de deux cents personnes de sa tribu, est arrivé dans notre vilayet pour s'y fixer comme les autres émigrés. N'oublions pas de dire que ces hommes sont arrivés ici sans avoir ni famille, ni bestiaux, ni tout ce qui est nécessaire pour la culture et ménage. Ces hommes sont des cavaliers; leur ménage se compose seulement d'un bon fusil et quelques revolvers. Par conséquent il est facile de concevoir combien des gens de cette catégorie sont dangereux pour notre vilayet.

Signé par l'Archevêque Arménien de Sivas.

Inclosure 4 in No 2.

Archbishop Bedros to the Governor of Sivas.

(Traduction.)

Excellence,

PAR cause des actes d'oppression notre patrie se trouve dans la voie de la destruction et l'importante question de la réforme existant seulement dans des paroles, et prenant en sérieuse considération des questions des mêmes espèces, des Commissaires ont été envoyés dans toutes les parties de l'Empire afin qu'ils puissent punir les malfaiteurs et oppresseurs et assurer la réforme que l'exigence du temps nécessite, et délivrer le joug d'esclavage des quelques hommes de fortune et d'influence. Nous sommes très-heureux et nous nous empressons de faire l'expression de notre profonde satisfaction, que par la grâce de Dieu, votre Excellence a été nommé le Commissaire Impérial pour notre province, et nous prenons la liberté de présenter notre hommage le plus respectueux à Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, notre Seigneur et Souverain bienveillant, pour sa grâce et son désir en ce qui concerne la patrie et la prospérité de ses sujets bien sincères.

Votre Excellence connaît déjà parfaitement par des divers examens secrets les noms des malfaiteurs et oppresseurs qui infestent dans notre province et dehors, ainsi que les actes passés et présents de Mehmed Ali Effendi, qui occupe une place importante dans le chiffre des malfaiteurs parce que, quoiqu'ayant obtenu depuis quelques ans une place dans le Tribunal de Temiz, il a aussi joué par des mains de ses hommes des rôles dans les affaires des autres départements. Etant aussi de la catégorie des hommes de bonne fortune, d'influence, nous attendons avec anxiété l'exécution de ce qui est nécessaire pour l'assurance de la protection des droits du peuple et l'exécution des réformes.

Signé par l'Archevêque Arménien de Sivas.

Sivas, le 21 Octobre, 1295.

Inclosure 5 in No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sivas, November* 21, 1879.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 1st instant, relating to the case of Hadji Raouf Bey, I would beg to draw attention to Captain Cooper's despatch of the 25th October last, in which he states that "the original order for Hadji Raouf Bey did not make any reference to the petitioners being also required at Angora," and to the fears that are entertained that Hadji Raouf Bey has been able to exert sufficient influence to delay proceedings, and that he may, as in former cases, escape judgment.

It seems to me that any trial of Hadji Raouf Bey in which the petitioners are not examined must be little more than a farce.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 6 in No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sivas, November* 21, 1879.

WITH reference to my despatches of the 28th October and the 3rd November, relating to the horses of the Circassians of the Uzun Yailas, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the order permitting the Circassians to take their horses to the Adana Vilayet for the winter reached Sivas on the 9th instant, and that I communicated this to your Excellency by telegram the same day.

As a succession of southerly gales, which melted most of the snow, set in on the 12th instant, I hope the Circassians have been able to move south without much loss.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 8th instant, informing me of the orders issued by the Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 7 in No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sivas, November* 21, 1879.

IN my despatch of the 7th October I informed your Excellency that I had suggested to the Mutessarif of Amasia the advisability of sending the cavalry detachment quartered in that town to the village of Suleiman-Keui, which was reported to have been pillaged by Circassians. I have since been informed that the village was not pillaged, but that the troops arrived in time to prevent an attack which the Circassians were about to make on the place. As I hope to visit Suleiman-Keui in a few days, I propose deferring a report on the subject until I have had an opportunity of speaking with the villagers.

I took an early opportunity of drawing the attention of the Vali to the disturbed state of the Tocat and Amasia districts, of which his Excellency had been previously informed by the Mutessarif of Amasia.

The zaptieh force being quite inadequate to meet the ordinary requirements of the vilayet, Abedin Pasha directed his Excellency Lieutenant-General Musa Pasha to proceed to the district with the greater portion of the cavalry under his command. He left Sivas on the 22nd October. Musa Pasha has carried out the instructions of his Excellency the Vali in a very energetic manner. Seventeen notorious robbers in the Tocat district and thirty-two in the Amasia Sandjak have been captured, and are now in prison awaiting trial. The Medjliss of Tocat decided that there should be a linked guarantee amongst the whole population, that is, that every man should furnish the name of some friend or neighbour who would be directly responsible to the Government for his good behaviour. I understand that this is being put in force through the Moukhtars of the different villages, and that an effort is at last being made to insure security to life and property. It is one thing, however, to capture prisoners, and another to have them tried and convicted, the mode of procedure in the Courts being entirely beyond the influence of the Vali.

I am glad to be able to report a marked improvement in the state of the vilayet; for the last three weeks I have heard of no cases of robbery; previous to the arrival of Abedin Pasha they were of daily occurrence, even in the immediate vicinity of Sivas. I think this shows with what ease order may be maintained in a vilayet if the Governor-General be an able man and anxious to do his duty.

Your Excellency is aware, from the Reports of Captain Cooper and Mr. Gatheral, of the state of insecurity which exists in the Province of Angora, and I cannot but attribute this to the incompetence of the Vali and of the Mutessarif of Kaisariyeh.

I would beg to express a hope that your Excellency will impress upon the Porte the absolute necessity of appointing able, energetic men as Governors-General in the provinces, and of allowing them more freedom of action, if His Imperial Majesty the Sultan does not wish to see Anatolia speedily reduced to a state of anarchy.

I have to inclose a copy of a telegram which I forwarded to your Excellency on the 15th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON

Inclosure 8 in No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Sivas, November* 21, 1879.

I BEG to draw your Excellency's attention to the paragraph in Captain Cooper's despatch of the 27th October last, in which he states that the Mutessarif of Kaisariyeh had applied for 100 cavalry to keep order in the sandjak, and observes that it is "absolutely necessary that some organized force should be sent to Kaisariyeh without delay if the caravan routes are to be kept open."

I quite concur in Captain Cooper's view that it is necessary to send cavalry to Kaisariyeh. Under the existing system, by which nearly all the money that can be collected in a vilayet is sent to Constantinople, it is hopeless to expect any reorganization of the present zaptieh force, and the employment of regular troops seems the only method of maintaining order in the country. I have, in another despatch, reported the beneficial

results which have followed from the employment by the Vali of Sivas of the cavalry under the command of his Excellency Lieutenant-General Musa Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 9 in No. 2.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Sivas, November* 15, 1879.

PASHA acting energetically; eleven Tocat robbers caught. Cavalry will now quiet Amasia.

No. 3.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3, 1880.)

(No. 28. Secret.)

My Lord, *Marsivan, December* 10, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch, marked Secret, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the substance of a confidential conversation with Abedin Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)

Sir, *Sivas, November* 26, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I recently had a confidential conversation with Abedin Pasha respecting reform questions in this vilayet. His Excellency laid down as the chief requirements of the vilayet—

1. That the Vali, the Mutessarifs, and the Kaïmakams should be good men, known for their capacity and integrity; and that the Vali should have a voice in the appointment of the Kaïmakams, and power to dismiss incompetent men.

It appears that at present the Kaïmakams are appointed by a Committee at Constantinople, and that a Vali has only power of suspension pending investigation. If, on suspending a Kaïmakam, the Vali reports the matter to Stamboul, the Committee send a new man who is unknown to the Vali, and who may be more incompetent than his predecessor; The Committee, in fact, care nothing about the provinces, and simply seek to make money. A case occurred last year in Amasia, in which the appointment of Kaïmakam was sold for £T. 50 by an open telegram from Constantinople. To meet this difficulty the Vali, who has suspended two of the worst Kaïmakams in the vilayet, has appointed good men as Vakils (Acting Governors), without reporting to Constantinople; he acknowledged that this was a ruse, but said, "How can I secure good men otherwise?"

2. The formation of an efficient police force. Under Izzet and Sureya Pashas the sum allotted for the zaptieh force was reduced to £T. 15,000, whereas more than double the amount is necessary to make it efficient. In Diarbekir Vilayet £T. 40,000 are allotted, and in the Trebizond Vilayet, I believe, £T. 60,000.

His Excellency told me that he had written strongly to the Porte on the subject, and had proposed schemes for a complete and a partial reorganization; he had even said that with £T. 8,000 more he could make the force work properly on the old system. He has received no answer to his letters or telegrams.

3. An educational system. Abedin Pasha has submitted a scheme for introducing elementary education in the towns and villages without additional cost to the Government. No answer has been received.

4. A better system for the collection of the taxes. His Excellency has proposed to do away with the existing system of collecting the verghi by zaptiehs, and to introduce one of quarterly payments through the Caza chests, which, I think, would greatly relieve

the peasantry, and free them from the oppression of the zaptiehs. With regard to the sale of tithes, he proposes to fix a certain day, after which no offer will be received. Any intending purchaser must, before this day, deposit in a box a sealed envelope stating the tithe he wishes to bid for, and the highest amount he is prepared to give. The letters would be opened before the Idaré Medjliss, and the tithes allocated to the highest bidder; I am not certain that this will result in an increase to the revenue, Abedin Pasha thinks it would: it will, however, get rid at once of the gross corruption and the speculation which exist at present to the detriment of the peasantry, who have often to leave their wheat on the threshing floors for two and three months whilst intrigues are going on amongst the tithe farmers. Abedin Pasha also proposes to encourage the villagers to buy their own tithes. He has received no answer to his proposals from the Porte.

5. Public improvements. Abedin Pasha has proposed to the Porte to construct a road from Samsoun to Diarbekir by calling upon the people to supply the three days' labour per annum which the State is entitled to demand from them, and by making use of sums now in the chests of the Municipal Councils of the cazas, under effectual guarantees that it would be properly spent. He has received no answer, and even the small sum annually allowed to the vilayet for public works has not been granted this year.

6. Introduction of industries. His Excellency proposes to encourage the introduction of industries, especially the manufacture of beetroot sugar, for which Sivas would be a very suitable place. His suggestions on this head have also remained unanswered.

I remarked that I thought reform was equally necessary in the Courts of Justice, and that it was very desirable to establish a proper Provincial Budget. With regard to the Courts he replied, "It is not my business;" it is, I believe, rather a sore subject, as I have been informed by the Mudaiounoun that Abedin Pasha received a telegram a few days ago forbidding him to interfere in any way with judicial matters. With regard to a Budget, he acknowledged it would be a good thing, but did not seem to think it possible, under present circumstances, to form one on a European system. The finances of the vilayet are, in fact, in an utter state of disorganization; the "havalés" issued at Constantinople are in excess of the revenue, and to-day I have been told the keeper of the chest (Sandak Emini) of the vilayet has been directed not to pay any more money to "havalé" holders, as instructions had been received to send all that could be scraped together to Constantinople. The scenes at the konak every day, where the Defterdar (Paymaster-General) is mobbed by unfortunate people claiming payment for pensions and other small sums due to them, are evidence of the almost bankrupt state of the country.

With regard to the opening of a Reform Commission, his Excellency thought it would not be advisable until he had received answers to his proposals from the Porte; he said, "The first question asked of me will be with regard to the gendarmerie; you know how I am situated, what could I say? and it is the same with other matters."

Knowing the fanatic temper of most of the Moslems here, and the spirit of passive resistance to Government control which is spreading amongst the Armenians, I have for some time been of opinion that the opening of a Reform Commission, which, unless the Porte is prepared to sanction useful reforms, could lead to no result, would only tend to separate still further the Moslems and the Christians, and raise feelings of animosity which it would take years to eradicate. I could not, therefore, help agreeing with Abedin Pasha in the advisability of deferring the opening of the Commission.

The impression produced upon me by the whole conversation was, that the Porte having appointed Abedin Pasha Vali of Sivas, was doing its best to thwart him and tie his hands. This impression is strengthened by the line which the Porte has adopted with regard to the Kurd Chiefs; I gathered from what Abedin Pasha said that he had been pretty sharply reprimanded for exiling them at all, and had been called upon for an explanation.

The spirit which the Porte is showing with regard to reform in the provinces is best exemplified by the promotion of the Mutessarif of Kharput, whose conduct towards Manas Effendi, the Reform Commissioner I mentioned in my private letter to your Excellency of the 13th instant, to be Vali of Mosul. I must confess that I have yet seen no symptom of any effort on the part of the Porte to introduce reforms in Anatolia. Abedin Pasha has been able to reduce the vilayet to something like order as far as regards security to life and property; I doubt if he can do more at present. I am also under the impression that his powers as Commissioner have been curtailed, or that, finding the reception his vigorous action with regard to the Kurds has met with at the Porte, he has become somewhat disheartened.

I have marked this despatch Secret, as any publication of Abedin Pasha's views would compromise him with the Porte, and the conversation was a confidential one at his private house.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 4.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3, 1880.)

(No. 1128.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 18, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the despatches, as marked in the margin, which I have received under flying seal from Colonel Wilson.* I should add that they have been acted upon, and the substance of them has been brought to the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 5.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3, 1880.)

(No. 1131.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 18, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter. In doing so I desire to call your Lordship's attention to Captain Clayton's statement as to the result of the visit of a gentleman "as a deputation from the Archbishop of Canterbury" to Mar Shimoun, the Patriarch of the Nestorians, in inducing His Holiness to show hostility to the American missionaries, and to endeavour to "crush the American Protestantism." This is not the first time, I am grieved to say, that clergymen of the Church of England have, in their intercourse with the Nestorian clergy, sought to set them against the American missionaries whose work amongst the Nestorian Christians, I agree with Captain Clayton in thinking, has been one of great good.

I understand that it is the intention of persons in England, acting with the Archbishop of Canterbury, to send out some clergymen to enter into relations with this ancient and interesting Christian sect and their spiritual Chief.

Your Lordship has, I believe, been requested to furnish these ecclesiastical delegates with letters and recommendations. I would venture to suggest that they should be warned not to pursue a course towards the American missionaries which appears to me to be opposed to the true spirit of religious freedom, to be calculated to produce a very unfavourable impression as regards Protestantism upon the other religious communities of the East, and which some years ago led to the most serious consequences to the Nestorians themselves.

The American missions have now for nearly half a century been established amongst the Nestorian tribes in the Kurdish mountains and in Persia. They have done much, at no little sacrifice, and by teaching and example, to educate and civilize this Christian people. They have established numerous schools and many stations amongst them. There is, however, it appears to me, plenty of room for a mission from the Church of England without interfering with the Americans, if it will not associate itself with them.

It would, indeed, be deplorable if an attempt to destroy their influence and to put a stop to their Christian work, because it is not altogether in accordance with the doctrine and discipline of the Church of England, were to end in producing rivalries and quarrels amongst the Nestorians which would expose them to fresh persecutions and outrages from their secular Mussulman enemies the Kurds.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* Nos. 1 and 2.

Inclosure in No. 5.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Van, November 14, 1879.

Sir,

FROM the same source as I obtained the intelligence about the condition of Hakkiari contained in a previous despatch, I have since received some information respecting Mar Shimoun and the Nestorians, and their relations with the Kurds.

My informant told me that when Sheikh Ubeydullah was meditating his rising he sent two letters to Mar Shimoun, asking his assistance and saying that they did not want Turkish government, Turkish troops, or Turkish officials in their lands; that they had better make themselves responsible for paying a certain amount of tribute to the Porte, and be otherwise independent Princes in their respective countries. Mar Shimoun replied that he would not join in a rising against the Government, and that moreover, if he were to consent to do so, his people would not obey him.

I am given to understand that the present holder of the title of Mar Shimoun wields nothing like the same authority as his predecessors have done. He is a young man of not very regular habits, being somewhat given to drink, and the Nestorians have lost the superstitious reverence in which they formerly held their Patriarch. Formerly no one ventured to enjoy any of the fruits of his husbandry or of his flocks and herds without having given a share to Mar Shimoun. But now the worldly spirit seems to be creeping in; they say, "Why should we give so much to the Patriarch? we had much better keep it for ourselves;" and the Patriarchal revenues have become sorely diminished. Moreover, they think that he has sold himself to the Turkish Government by accepting a salary from it, and that he cares more for his personal advantage than the good of his people, and therefore the Meleks, or subordinate Chiefs, pay him a grudging obedience, or refuse it altogether if his mandates are not to their liking. He is, moreover, at odds with the Meleks about a matter of taxes claimed by the Turkish Government. It appears that the officials who collect the taxes have been in the habit of giving fraudulent receipts acknowledging much less than they really received, the people, through their ignorance of Turkish, not being able to detect the fraud, so that now a large mass of arrears is ostensibly owing, though the people believe that they have paid all that was due from them. Mar Shimoun wishes these arrears to be paid that he may obtain his salary from the amount, but the Meleks refuse to pay, so that there is at present a deadlock.

Meantime, the Nestorians are suffering severely from the Kurds. Being all armed, when in bodies they can hold their own, but whenever they can be caught in small numbers the Kurds fall upon them and rob and ill-treat them. Reprisals ensue, and thus a petty war is continually being carried on. Recently their condition has become worse, on account of having incurred the enmity of Sheikh Ubeydullah, who, previously on good terms with them, has been estranged, owing to Mar Shimoun having divulged his schemes to the Government.

All the suffering, however, is not on the side of the Nestorians. Mar Shimoun has taken to persecuting the Protestant adherents of the American missionaries. It appears that some little time ago a gentleman visited him as a deputation from the Archbishop of Canterbury who seems, by action that hardly appears to have been judicious, to have imbued him with hostility to the Americans, whose work has been one of great good; and since that time he has tried to crush the American Protestantism. I wrote to him some little time ago, expressing a hope that he would refrain from his persecution, and have received an answer that it is not true that he persecutes, and that if he has punished it has been for civil offences. The evidence of the missionaries themselves proves that this is not the real truth, but I hope that my communication may restrain, at all events to some extent, his persecuting tendencies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 6.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1133.)
Constantinople, December 19, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Major Trotter's despatch to your Lordship No. 41 of the 13th September last, I have the honour to state that I called the attention of the Porte to the unsatisfactory state of affairs in the Sandjak of Bayazid described in that despatch. I have now received a note from the Porte, of which a copy is inclosed, informing me that the newly-appointed Mutessarif of Bayazid has arrived at his post, and is actively engaged in improving the condition of the district. I have communicated this information to Captain Everett.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Memorandum.

Sublime Porte, le 16 *Décembre*, 1879.

IL résulte d'un télégramme du Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet d'Erzeroum que le nouveau Mutessarif de Bayazid est arrivé à son poste le 21 Septembre dernier (v. s.), et q'il ne cesse depuis lors, conformément aux instructions qu'il a reçues, de s'occuper de l'amélioration du sort des habitants de cette contrée et de veiller au maintien de la sécurité publique et à la punition des coupables.

No. 7.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1138.)
Constantinople, December 20, 1879.

My Lord,

WHEN I saw the Prime Minister two days ago, he informed me that he had received a telegram from Baker Pasha, who was at Aleppo, with some suggestions for the improvement in the organization of the gendarmerie of the province. I asked his Highness whether he intended to act upon them. He replied that they had been referred to the Minister of War, under whom the gendarmerie was now placed. "But," I remarked, "your Highness is no doubt perfectly aware that Osman Pasha will not only not act upon any suggestions that Baker Pasha may make, but that he will oppose them. His Highness admitted, laughing, that such would be the result. If this be the case, I asked, what is the use of Baker Pasha's mission?

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 8.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1139.)
Constantinople, December 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE received a private letter from Major Trotter, dated the 2nd December, from Egin, at which placed he had arrived on his way to Diarbekir. He reports that he has been extremely well received everywhere on his journey, and states that at Erzinjian a much better feeling exists, externally at all events, between Moslems and Christians, than he has met with elsewhere. He describes the state of the country to be fairly satisfactory, an improvement having taken place since the last time he visited it. His intended visit to Dersim had been prevented by snow. He ascertained, however, that the Redifs in that district had been sent to their homes, and there only remained six battalions of Nizams. The state of the district was quiet where the military were

present, and rebellious elsewhere. Great dissatisfaction with Dervish Pasha was expressed at Erzinjian.

Major Trotter proposed to proceed from Egin viâ Arabkir, Kharpoot, and Malatia to Diarbekir, at which place, he has informed me, by telegraph, he will probably arrive on the 27th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 9.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1141.)
Constantinople, December 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Clayton to Major Trotter, in which he gives a shocking account of the sufferings of the Christian population in the Vilayet of Van. I have addressed a strong representation to the Porte on the subject, of which I also inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 9.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Van, November 21, 1879.

Sir,

I REGRET to say that the Government is doing nothing for the relief of the peasants of the various districts threatened by famine, viz., Nurduz, Shaddakh, Meks, and Pergri. These districts are those that have especially suffered from the depredations of the Kurds, and are therefore most distressed, but there may, possibly, be more or less distress elsewhere. Not only does the Government fail to relieve the sufferers, but in some instances aggravates the evils of their condition by demanding from them arrears of taxation and the repayment of corn lent to them last year and the year before to help them to recover from the destitution caused by the war. The Government has deceived the peasantry by false promises of assistance, keeping them in suspense for weeks and hindering them from emigrating, as they otherwise would have done, and now they end by telling them that they will do nothing for them. The result will, I fear, be the most terrible suffering and a very large mortality by starvation.

Not having received any answer from the Vali to my letter, alluded to in my immediately preceding despatch, asking what steps were being taken for the relief of these people, I went to him the day before yesterday, and asking why he had not replied to me, I used the most urgent language to endeavour to get him to do something for the people, pointing out that responsibility in the highest degree would rest on the shoulders of the Government for the misery that would ensue if some aid were not given. The Vali and Samih Pasha, who was present, made excuses that, although the Government wished to give assistance, there were many difficulties, and that it would be necessary to send agents round to find out the real state of the case and then refer to Constantinople; but, as I pointed out, the necessities of the situation were known at least two months ago, and a Commission has been supposed to be sitting for weeks to examine into the circumstances, and if the Government does not know now the exact situation it is entirely their own fault. Meantime reports reach me that corn is being given from the Government stores to the Kurds. On the whole, I am being fast driven to share the belief of the Armenians that there is a fixed intention of either destroying or driving out the Christian population.

A few days ago a petition was brought to me from Ardamid, a village about 6 or 7 miles from here, containing some 450 families, of which 300 are Turkish and 150 Armenian, complaining of the oppressions suffered by the Armenians at the hands of the Turks. I accordingly rode over to the village three days ago to inquire on the spot into the state of the case, and I found the Armenians suffering under a reign of terror, their property, the honour of their women and their lives being none of them secure. They handed me the petition, a translation of which I inclose. The fear that the Armenians have of the Turks is so great that I had some difficulty in inducing one of them to ga

with my Cawass to fetch the Turkish Headman to whom I wished to speak. For months they have been trying to get redress from Government, but in vain, though when the Vali heard where I was gone he sent off at once the Chief of Police and another official who arrested four persons, but I have since heard that the Moslem members of the Medjliss have succeeded in obtaining the liberation of three of them. I have reason to believe that this is not an isolated case of wrong, but that it is likely to be the case in all villages where the population is mixed, though often the Christians are afraid to come and let me know.

With reference to the refusal of Government to aid those threatened by famine, I sent, on the 19th instant, the following telegram to the Ambassador:—

"Le Gouvernement Local ne donne aucune aide aux paysans Chrétiens qui sont menacés de famine. Il les a trompé par de promesses de sorte à les empêcher d'émigrer, et maintenant que les voies sont closes par la neige ils mourront de faim par des centaines."

The districts of Bashkala, Arpag, and Gevver have (as reported in a previous despatch) suffered terribly, but as they are under the Mutessarif of Hakkiari, I have heard no details of what is being done for them, only that Toussoun Pasha is doing what his small means allow.

I have, &c
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 9.

Armenians of Ardamed to Captain Clayton.

(Translation.)

Sir, *Ardamed (Van), November* 18, 1879.

THE whole Armenian population of this village is extremely glad to see you here to-day, and every one forgets his grief for a moment and comes to offer to you his thanks and gratitude for your coming.

We know well, Sir, that you visit our village to inquire into our miseries in order to be able to ameliorate our unfortunate condition. We therefore are encouraged to impart to you our troubles, our miseries, and oppressions; in one word, to explain as clearly as we possibly can our wretched slavery, being sure that you wish to know it.

We are, Sir, a very unfortunate people; though we possess houses, they do not belong to us; we have fields and gardens, but we cannot enjoy their fruits; the honour of our families does not exist at all, as we have already told you in our former petition. We are indeed a poor people, and one to be pitied; we are beaten, but we dare not weep; we are oppressed, but for fear of future revenge we cannot complain against our oppressors. Our brethren and children are treated like slaves, but we can only listen to their cries and lamentations, we cannot help them. The crops of our fields are often forcibly carried away, our cattle are stolen, the trees in our gardens are cut down. This uspin a young Turk, named Djaher Ogly Dervish, having unjustly charged an Armenian, named Mkhitar, who was going to Constantinople, with owing him money, entered his garden by force in the daytime and cruelly cut down two pear trees which were to serve s the support of his poor family. The same Dervish again cut down some trees in the garden of Tchouro Avedis, who, finding the doer to be Dervish, asked him why he had done such a harm to him; on which Dervish became very angry and attacked the poor man, and beat him so severely that all his bones were nearly broken and he had to be carried home.

Two years ago, on the Carnival night, some Turks broke into a house where two newly-married women, with their mother-in-law, were living, and after keeping the old woman quiet by covering her with bedding, they all (nine persons) threw themselves furiously on the young women and violated them all the night. The poor creatures, having much resisted, received considerable injury. The notorious Dervish was one of the misdoers. This same Dervish again took away by force a young married woman from her husband, and after keeping her one night sent her back. There is another, named Esret Oghlou Mahmoud, of whose criminal actions we will only mention one. About six years ago he forcibly took possession of an Armenian woman, and since that time he frequents her house as if he were her husband. Muden Oghlou Fezus Agha has forcibly taken possession of the wife of Abraham; besides, he is a thief, and often commits robberies; for instance, the wood belonging to the priest Mattheos having been carried away, he found it in the market in the town of Van, and was told that Fezus had brought it there for sale. This same Fezus, having had for some time his

cousin Jemur staying with him, has openly, or in secret, turned almost half of our houses into brothels. We have often, with tears, entreated him not to do such horrible things, but in vain. Toplou Djaugo has forcibly taken possession of two Armenian women because there is no one to protect them against his oppressions.

Osman and Kutchuk Agha seized an Armenian named Garabed in his field and beat him severely because he had watered his fields against the will of Bairam Agha, who, without any right or reason, had forbidden him to do so. In this quarrel Osman said to Kutchuk Agha, "Kill him; I am ready to pay the price of his blood," being sure that no one would require it of him.

These are only a few miseries we have mentioned; it is impossible to tell what we are suffering during the days and nights. If we try to tell one case there remain hundreds to be told, and when we tell hundreds there remain thousands untold. From head to foot we are oppressed; our hearts are broken and tears of blood spring from our eyes. We eat our bread with trouble and mingle our drink with tears. For every one in the world his home is a sweet place of repose and comfort, but our houses are intolerable, because there we suffer oppression and extortion. Our mothers and wives bring forth their fruit with anguish and fear, our children pass their lives with us in trouble and misery, and we all descend into the grave with sighs and groans. Therefore, as you come to protect us as a father his children, we are encouraged to put before you in this paper some of our troubles like a droplet from the ocean. We can no longer endure these oppressions which we have hitherto been suffering. Either our deplorable and intolerable condition should be ameliorated, or we should get permission to emigrate. We do not wish to go into a foreign country; we only ask for a place within the Turkish Empire where we could find security of life, honour, and property.

We are, &c.

(Signed in the name of the whole Armenian population of Ardamed),
REIS GARABED GAGOYAN.
(And 14 other signatures.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 9.

Note Verbale.

Constantinople, December 20, 1879.

HER Britannic Majesty's Ambassador has the honour to communicate to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs the translation of a despatch received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van and of an extract from a petition addressed to him by the inhabitants of an Armenian village. The shocking accounts that they contain of the sufferings of the Christian population and the proofs they afford of the culpable negligence, if not something worse, and incapacity of the Turkish authorities, cannot fail, Her Majesty's Ambassador ventures to hope, to make as painful an impression upon the Sublime Porte as they have upon him. It is impossible that such a state of things can long continue, and the responsibility of the consequences if it does must fall upon those who do not take measures to protect the Christian subjects of the Sultan from outrages and ill-treatment which cannot but excite the indignation of every civilized country.

No. 10.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 3, 1880.)

(No. 1142.) *Constantinople, December* 21, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation, by Mr. Dragoman Alishan, of a letter from an Armenian living in Russia, addressed to the "Massis," an Armenian journal published in Constantinople. My attention has been called to this letter by Monsignor Nerses, the Gregorian Armenian Patriarch, on account of the arguments that it brings forward to induce the Porte to grant autonomy to Armenia, which may not be without interest to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 10.

Correspondence published in the "Massis."

Lettre de la Russie.

M. le Rédacteur du Journal "Massis." *Le 16 Octobre*, 1879.

LES journaux Européens nous informent que le Gouvernement Ottoman et ses Ministres sont enfin persuadés qu'il faut accorder une autonomie administrative aux Arméniens, et qu'en octroyant une autonomie aux Arméniens la Turquie acquiert une forte existence.

Je saisis cette occasion pour dire ici quelques mots et me faire l'interprète des opinions de la conviction des Arméniens de la Russie. Il est possible que le Gouvernement Ottoman et ses Ministres soupçonnaient jusqu'aujourd'hui et croient encore que si l'on accorde l'autonomie aux Arméniens ces derniers tendraient après quelque temps à s'isoler et former un Etat indépendant, ainsi que l'ont fait certaines autres nationalités qui une fois étaient sous la domination Ottomane. Je désire à ce sujet expliquer les tendances, les désirs, la disposition des Arméniens, et ce qu'ils pourraient faire dans l'avenir, afin que le Gouvernement Ottoman et ses Ministres puissent être profondément convaincus de ce qu'ils doivent faire et de la politique qu'il doivent suivre à l'égard de la nation Arménienne.

Ainsi qu'il est connu de tout le monde les Arméniens constituent une petite nationalité de 4,000,000 d'âmes, qui n'ont aucun rapport de religion ni de race avec aucune nationalité faible ou forte de l'Europe et de l'Asie. La nation Arménienne est donc pour ainsi dire une nation isolée qui n'a ni père ni frère. Nous sommes par conséquent fermement persuadés que n'ayant pas d'amis, nous ne pourrons espérer de qui que ce soit la dépense d'une seule piastre pour nous, ni le sacrifice d'un seul homme.

Nous ne pouvons pas être assimilés à la race Slave, pour qu'on puisse soupçonner que le redoutable Gouvernement Russe fasse le sacrifice d'une seule rouble ou d'un seul homme pour nous comme il a fait pour les Bulgares et les Serbes. Nous ne pouvons pas être à ceux qui professent la religion Orthodoxe, pour nous attendre à l'assistance d'un Gouvernement Orthodoxe—une assistance pareille à celle prêtée par la Russie à la Grèce et à la Roumanie; que le Gouvernement Ottoman soit sans inquiétude à cet égard; Carathéodory Pacha a gravement péché contre nos Arméniens et contre les intérêts Turcs en déclarant au sein du Congrès de Berlin que "Si l'on accorde l'autonomie aux Arméniens, l'Arménie devient une province Russe." . . . Cette réponse et l'expression d'un tel soupçon indiquent une ignorance du passé, du présent, et de l'avenir de la nation Arménienne.

Notre nation n'a aucune attache avec les nations Latines pour que la France libératrice ou bien l'Italie versent une goutte de sang ou bien dépensent un seul franc pour nous; nous ne pouvons non plus être assimilés à aucune des autres nations Européennes qui subsistent encore. Nous savons donc bien que nous n'avons aucun ami et aucun espoir de trouver de l'assistance de qui que ce soit; pour parler plus clairement, nous sommes une nation orphéline et subsistant d'elle-même, ayant besoin de la protection d'un père bienveillant et d'un grand amour fraternel.

Une fois que l'idée que nous venons d'exprimer est bien saisie, continuons notre argument. Supposons que le Gouvernement Ottoman ait déjà accordé une autonomie aux Arméniens de l'Arménie, et que cette autonomie fût très-libre et avec des immunités très-étendues. Il est hors de doute que si l'Arménie devient un pays autonomie libre (dans la complète acception Européenne du mot) les Arméniens de tous côtés convergeront vers cet endroit; même les Arméniens Russes et du Caucase seront attirés vers ce centre; les motifs pour cela ne manquent pas même aujourd'hui (mais laissons cette question pour une autrefois). Nous pensons qu'une des politiques du Gouvernement Ottoman par rapport aux Arméniens doit-être celle d'employer tous les moyens en son pouvoir pour attirer les Arméniens des différents endroits sur son territoire, ou bien de gagner au moins leur sympathie. C'est ainsi que faisaient tous les Empereurs Russes, à commencer par Pierre-le-Grand, par l'Impératrice Catherine jusqu'à nos jours; si toutefois le Gouvernement Ottoman est persuadé que la nation Arménienne est profitable et utile. Il est regrettable que le Gouvernement Ottoman faisait jusqu'ici fausse route et suivait une politique erronée et désavantageuse pour lui. De sorte que chaque année les Arméniens de la Turquie émigrent par centaines dans la Russie et d'autres endroits pour que, à une époque de guerre, ceux qui étaient une fois ses sujets, puissent se battre contre elle.

Il est évident que les Arméniens partout où ils ont été ont joui des droits élémentaires de l'homme; ils ont partout, et dans tous les pays et dans toutes les villes, donné une extension à leur existence, au commerce et au bien-être. Les Souverains et les Gouvernements Russes ont bien compris cela et ils ont toujours accordés des immunités aux Arméniens.

Le Caucase aurait péri sans les Arméniens. Le Gouvernement Russe voyant que les Arméniens sont attirés vers l'Arménie autonome de la Turquie, se trouvera dans la nécessité d'accorder la même autonomie à l'Arménie Russe; chose qu'elle ne peut pas faire malgré ses désirs; car elle ne peut pas priver son propre pays et sa nation d'un avantage et favoriser les autres nationalités en leur accordant ce même avantage.

Il faut que l'Arménie Turque et les pays Turcs qui l'avoisinent soient, par suite de cette situation où ils se trouvent, florissants et riches, et qu'ils acquièrent une nouvelle vitalité. Le Gouvernement Ottoman ne désire-t-il que ses sujets dévoués soient riches et heureux et que son Empire soit productif?

Ceci étant ainsi, examinons à quel résultat nous pouvons parvenir.

Supposons que la majorité des Arméniens et leur centre de gravité se transportent dans l'Arménie Turque. On a souvent dit que l'Arménien n'a rien à attendre de la Russie.

Si l'Arménien tombait complétement entre les mains de la Russie, il serait obligé de lutter pour sa religion. Tandis que la nation Arménienne a subsisté en Arménie pendant quatre siècles (400 ans) et a pu conserver sa nationalité et sa religion. Et il ne faut pas s'attendre que pour rien au monde l'Arménien puisse facilement être privé de ces saintes choses. Si la nation Arménienne obtient l'autonomie de la part des Sultans et parvient à jouir de la prospérité, alors tous les efforts de l'Arménien et toutes ses aspirations tendront à contribuer à ce que le Gouvernement Ottoman se fortifie, s'enrichisse, et devienne toujours prospère afin que l'Arménien lui-même puisse, sous l'égide du Gouvernement, respirer librement. Ajoutez à cela l'appui moral de l'Angleterre, qui n'a jamais fait défaut pour la Turquie. L'Angleterre a toujours désiré que le Gouvernement Ottoman soit fortifié et a tout fait pour le faire asseoir sur une base solide et prospère; si cette bonté de l'Angleterre s'est manifestée ce n'est pas par suite de l'intérêt qu'elle prend au pays ou à la religion; ce n'est pas parce que l'Angleterre donnerait sa vie pour le Turc; mais c'est parce que les intérêts de l'Angleterre nécessitent ce sentiment bienveillant.

Par ce qui précède j'espère avoir pu clairement expliquer mon idée qu'une fois leur autonomie accordée par le Sultan, il ne convient pas aux Arméniens d'être indépendants et de se voir écrasés entre les nations Russe et Turque. Ils doivent opter entre la protection Turque pour jouir avec les Turcs de la sympathie Européenne et la protection Russe. Ainsi que je viens de le démontrer, la Russie aurait le désir d'accorder l'autonomie à l'Arménie Russe qu'elle ne pourrait pas le faire à présent; il faut donc espérer l'autonomie de la prévoyance et de la prudence du Gouvernement Ottoman. Le Gouvernement Ottoman doit déjà être persuadé que sans améliorer le sort des nations qui lui sont soumises elle ne pourra jamais avoir de la tranquillité. Les temps sont changés et cela est devenu une règle générale. Ce sera aussi une règle générale qu'un Empire composé de différentes nationalités se trouvera dans une situation peu stable tant que ces nationalités ne seront pas satisfaites dans leurs aspirations légitimes. Dès que ces aspirations sont satisfaites le lien entre l'Empire et ces nationalités commence à se resserrer d'une manière très-ferme. L'exemple n'est pas loin. L'Autriche était dans une situation déplorable tant qu'elle suivait la vieille méthode de la politique, comme fait de nos jours la Turquie; en 1860 l'Autriche-Hongrie et la situation de l'Empire a changé et sa force morale et matérielle s'est accrue. Cette année, il y quelques semaines, l'Empereur François-Joseph a admis dans son discours les droits de toutes les nationalités qui forment l'Empire de la maison de Hapsburg et voilà que commence la vie tranquille et prospère pour les Polonais, les Tchèques, les Slaves, &c. Cela finira par une fédération riche, puissante, et prospère avec un puissant appui central. De même que la Hongrie et la Bohême ne peuvent avoir une existence sans la Turquie, l'Arménie, à plus forte raison, ne peut avoir une existence sans la Turquie.

J'ai légèrement indiqué plus haut que la protection morale de l'Angleterre est d'une grande assistance pour nous autres Arméniens et pour les Turcs.

Pour nous elle est très-nécessaire; nous avons du respect et de la vénération pour l'Angleterre, par conséquent nous l'aimons; quoique quelques-uns des représentants de notre opinion publique qui ont une politique hypocrite aient de temps en temps soutenu le contraire. Nous savons que l'Angleterre prêche l'autonomie pour toute l'humanité; nous savons que l'Angleterre est la patrie de toutes sortes de libertés. Nous savons que l'Angleterre est gouvernée par l'opinion publique et qu'elle est toujours juste et humaine. Nous

savons aussi le caractère ferme de l'Anglais. Son oui est oui; et son non est non. Nous avions donc à nous réjouir, et en vérité nous sommes réjouis, que l'Angleterre allait nous protéger dans notre patrie, et qu'elle sera notre directrice en moral et en matériel. L'Angleterre sera très-satisfaite si la Turquie réforme l'état de ses provinces en instituant quelques Roumélie Orientale dans l'Asie, d'après le désir universel des populations. Le dernier discours de la Reine même en a donné une preuve. Il n'y a pas même en Arménie une lueur de civilisation. Il y a ni routes, ni travaux publics, ni aglomération d'habitants. Si tout ce que nous venons de désirer avait été réalisé; si les nations sauvages des montagnes s'étaient adonnées aux travaux paisibles de la civilisation, ce que l'Arménie autonomie, la Syrie, &c., auraient sans doute fait, est-ce qu'alors le Trésor Ottoman aurait eu tant de peines pour ses dépenses journalières? En écrivant ces lignes, nous n'avons pas seulement en vue les intérêts Ottomans, mais bien les intérêts Arméniens aussi, et tant que l'histoire de nos intérêts et de ceux des Turcs sont liés ensemble, nous finiront par trouver le seul résultat conduisant à notre heureux avenir à nous deux que toute la nation Arménienne s'écrie à l'unanimité, "Vive le Sultan, vive la Turquie!" et que cette dernière ajoute "Vive l'Arménie!" Ceci serait le signal d'une amitié inaltérable entre l'Arménien et le Turc. Que le Turc comprenne qu'en dehors de son territoire et de nos fidèles sujets il ne peut trouver un ami sincère; et cette nation c'est la nation Arménienne, c'est la "terre" qui lie les nations d'un lien d'amitié. Ce que je viens d'écrire serait incomplet si je ne donnais la description du revers de la médaille.

Supposons que le Gouvernement Ottoman ne désire pas accorder cette autonomie aux Arméniens, qu'il ne saisisse pas les avantages de ce que nous venons de dire, et laisse faire les races sauvages—les Kurdes et les Circassiens—qui par leur état d'ignorance sont des éléments très-nuisibles pour la Turquie, que feront alors les Arméniens?

Quoique j'ai dit plus haut que les Arméniens n'ont pas d'amis et qu'ils n'attendent rien d'aucune nation, d'aucun Gouvernement, cependant, que le Gouvernement Ottoman le sache, les Arméniens ne sont pas tout-à-fait privés de protection. Ce protégé de la nation Arménienne c'est sa plume et la justice. Ainsi qu'ils l'ont fait jusqu'ici, les Arméniens auront désormais plus que jamais recours à l'Europe éclairé à l'occasion de chaque acte de barbarie qui se commet sur les Arméniens paisibles de l'Arménie de la part des Pachas, des Kurdes, et des Circassiens. La presse Européenne jettera le feu sur la Turquie et les Gouvernements humains d'Europe s'immisceront dans les affaires intérieures de la Turquie pour arracher l'Arménien—cette victime innocente—aux mains des Turcs. Ottomans, savez-vous pourquoi l'Europe et sa presse sont nos amis? C'est parce que la nature Arménienne suit la voie que l'Europe a déjà traversée. L'Arménien aime et poursuit les arts, les sciences, et les travaux utiles avec son labeur paisible et infatigable. Voilà pourquoi l'Europe aime les Arméniens.

En conclusion nous disons que les Arméniens doivent atteindre l'état heureux que nous leur souhaitons. Nous verrons par quelle voie ils y parviendront; l'avenir nous l'apprendra.

No. 11.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1144.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 22, 1879.

AS your Lordship is no doubt aware, the contracts entered into with the British officers who were invited to Constantinople to organize the gendarmerie expire in about six months. I have every reason to believe that they will not be renewed, and that the Porte, availing itself of the excuse to get rid of those officers, will inform them that their services are no longer required.

The conduct of the Porte in this matter affords a striking instance of its habitual bad faith, and of the artifices to which, in its cunning, it has recourse to deceive the European Powers.

It was with a view to satisfying Her Majesty's Government of its earnest intention to form an effective gendarmerie for the protection of the life and property of the Sultan's subjects, and especially of the Christians, that British officers were engaged to organize that corps. Since their arrival here every possible excuse and subterfuge have been used by the Turkish Government to evade its engagements in this respect, and to prevent the employment of these officers. When, as in the case of Colonel Blunt, a Governor-General of a province, upon his own responsibility, availed himself of the services

of one of them, the Porte, by refusing to confer upon him, by a Firman, the necessary authority, and by throwing every difficulty in his way, has done its utmost to thwart his endeavours to perform his duty successfully, evidently with the object of finding a pretext for asserting that he was incapable of discharging it, and the attempt to employ British officers had failed in consequence of their incapacity.

The only instance in which a British officer has apparently been employed with good results, in consequence of his having received the necessary authority and support, is that of Colonel Allix, in Crete. But, fortunately, that island has been, to a great extent, removed from the baneful influence of the Porte.

Over and over again I have received distinct promises from the Porte that the English gendarmerie officers, who have regularly received their pay, and have been wasting their time in idleness here, were about to be immediately employed, and were to be sent into the provinces. I have even been furnished, on more than one occasion, with the names of the vilayets for which they were each destined. But nothing came of it.

I have every reason to believe that the opposition to the employment of the English officers has mainly come from Osman Pasha, who, unfortunately, has sufficient influence at the Palace to prevent any good intentions with regard to the organization of the gendarmerie that might have been entertained by the Ministers of the Sultan from being put into execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 12.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1155.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a *note verbale* which I have addressed to-day to the Porte, demanding the dismissal of Husni Effendi, the Defterdar of Angora, for publicly using in the Medjliss insulting and offensive language to a British subject, Mr. Binns, and to the British nation. The inclosed Report from Mr. Binns will furnish your Lordship with the particulars of the case, and the accompanying despatch from Vice-Consul Gatheral will show that Husni Effendi is a man of bad character, and quite unfit for his post.

I have further demanded the dismissal of the Ferik Pasha of Van for using language with reference to Captain Clayton with which your Lordship has been made acquainted by that officer's despatches, unless he should have publicly apologized for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 12.

Note Verbale.

Constantinople, December 24, 1879.

HER Majesty's Ambassador, by a *note verbale* dated the 16th instant, addressed to the Sublime Porte, demanded that Husni Effendi, the Defterdar of Angora, who had publicly insulted in the Medjliss the British nation and a British subject, should be dismissed from his office.

In a *note verbale*, dated the 23rd November, Her Majesty's Ambassador brought to the notice of the Sublime Porte the insulting expressions publicly used by the Ferik Pasha of Van with reference to Captain Clayton, and informed it that he was waiting to know whether Her Majesty's Vice-Consul had received the public apology from his Excellency which he had very properly asked for. It would appear that up to this time, notwithstanding the frequent verbal representations made by Her Majesty's Ambassador on the subject, the apology demanded has not been tendered to Captain Cooper.

To neither of these notes has Her Majesty's Ambassador ever received a reply. He is, therefore, under the necessity of reiterating the demand for the dismissal of Husni Effendi in the most formal and categorical manner, and if the Ferik Pasha has not given the required apology, Her Majesty's Ambassador must also insist upon his immediate dismissal.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON.

Her Majesty's Ambassador has further the honour of requesting an answer without delay to this note, and he must hold the Porte responsible for the consequences if these demands be not complied with at once.

Inclosure 2 in No. 12.

Mr. Binns, Jun., to Vice-Consul Gatheral.

Angora, December 11, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 10th instant, informing me of receipt of a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador.

I feel honoured by the prompt action taken by our Ambassador in this case, and trust that the necessary orders, with view of preventing repetition of insults to British subjects, referred to in his Excellency's despatch, does not merely indicate a reprimand, but that it includes the dismissal of Husni Effendi as well; knowing the relations which have existed between Husni Effendi and myself since the 3rd instant, it is of course futile for me to mention that I hope the Porte will be induced to make a severe example of this official, who has evidently got beyond the stage of feeling any fear of reprimand.

My financial and other transactions with the Local Government being so large, I regret to have to add that it will be detrimental to the interests of my principals should Husni Effendi be permitted to remain here in an official capacity, after what has taken place between us, I, therefore, by the present, beg you to urge again upon Her Majesty's Ambassador the necessity of granting my request for Husni Effendi's dismissal. My corespondents, amongst whom are Messrs. J. W. Whellatt and Co., C. S. Hanson and Co., Binns Camondo, the Crédit Lyonnais, the Société Générale, &c., to all of whom I have notified the facts of the case, will have, ere this, urged upon Her Majesty's Ambassador the desirability of obtaining the desired satisfaction, and I have no doubt that a single line from you to the Embassy, repeating my request, is all that is required to obtain the desired end.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES F. BINNS, Jun.

Inclosure 3 in No. 12.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, December 13, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's telegram reading as under:—

"*Pera, December* 9, 1879.—(*Received at Angora, 10th December*, 12·30 P.M.)

"Porte has given necessary orders with view of preventing repetition of insults to British subjects complained of in your telegram of the 4th instant."

Having communicated to Mr. Binns the substance of this telegram, I have received from him a letter of which I beg to inclose a copy.

I have also called on the Governor-General to ascertain if the orders referred to had reached him, but he assures me in reply that up to date no official communication on the subject has reached.

The results of this delay are prejudicial to British interests here; all financial business has to be conducted with the Defterdar by means of third parties, and with utmost difficulty. Husni Effendi takes every opportunity of asserting in public that his conduct was perfectly justified, and that he will take the first opportunity of again denouncing what he is pleased to call English presumption. He asserts further that even official censure from Constantinople has no terrors for him, and that he will make no change in his conduct on that account. I regret to have to add that the Governor-General is disposed, officially, at all events, to take a biassed view of the occurrence, and tells me quite frankly that he will do all in his power to screen the Defterdar from the consequences of his conduct, as he also finds it extremely inconvenient to have the entire revenue of the province due to English agents, and to be compelled to pay it over to them. The only solution to the present deadlock lies in the direction of further official action on the part of Her Majesty's Embassy, and we earnestly hope that your Excellency will see the desirability of such further action being taken.

It is surely desirable that Turkish officials should be convinced not only that Englishmen cannot be insulted with impunity, but that some pressure should be put upon them to compel them to implement financial engagements which they have themselves solemnly and publicly undertaken.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 12.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, December 24, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

GOVERNOR-GENERAL advises receipt of telegram from Foreign Minister on 23rd, making inquiries regarding Husni Effendi affair, and directing him to report details. Vali accordingly desires me to submit what evidence and information I possess to Court of Inquiry. Binns and self shrink from submitting evidence, and offering Christian and foreign witnesses to a Court of Inquiry composed of biassed, fanatically hostile officials, unless we have categorical instructions from your Excellency, which we accordingly await before complying with Vali's demand. Have ascertained that Husni Effendi telegraphs to his relatives in capital that his dismissal appearing inevitable, to secure for him an exchange with Konieh or Kastamboul Defterdar.

Inclosure 5 in No. 12.

Sir A. H. Layard to Vice-Consul Gatheral.

Constantinople, December 24, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

BY no means submit evidence to Court of Inquiry. Mr. Binns' evidence is quite sufficient. I will take good care that Husni Effendi does not obtain exchange, or promotion, or reward for his insolent and unjustifiable conduct. I have repeated a peremptory demand for his dismissal, and I shall insist upon it.

No. 13.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1105.)

Constantinople, December 26, 1879.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Van, Erzeroum, Mossul, and Adrianople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 13.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Van, November 15, 1879.

Sir,

AS the winter draws on I regret to say that there appears more and more prospect of great distress from famine. Corn of all kinds has risen to a very high price, and, practically, may be said not to be in the market at all, so that the poorer classes have not been able to lay in their usual supply for the winter, and are living even now from hand to mouth. I am informed that in the town large numbers are living entirely on cabbages, and it is difficult to say what will become of them when the supply of those vegetables ceases, which it will do before long. The Government, it is true, issues a certain amount of corn every day to the bakeries, but there is a general complaint that the supply is insufficient, and that a considerable proportion of what is issued from the Government granaries is dishonestly intercepted before it reaches the public. Crowds every day surround the bakeries, almost fighting for the bread. Moreover, the bread is

sold at a high rate as compared with ordinary years, so as to put it out of the reach of the poorest class, which is very numerous in Van, as a large number of men are absent in Constantinople, leaving the women and children with very small means of living, which, in times like these, is wholly insufficient.

In the country districts distress is also very prevalent. Kurdish depredations, deficient harvests, and official exactions have left the peasantry almost destitute of grain either for seed or sustenance during the winter. From the mountain districts of Gevver, Nurduz, Shaddakh, and Moks come the most urgent petitions for help, they having suffered most at the hands of the Kurds, and also having naturally the least ground available for cultivation, and therefore the least margin to draw upon. I understand that Toussoun Pasha, the Mutessarif of Hakkiari, is doing what he can for the people in his Government, though his means are not, I believe, great; but Nurduz, Shaddakh, and Moks are not under him, but under the Government of Van, which seems but little anxious to give assistance. It is two months since the people of Nurduz began to petition the Government for aid, but as yet they have received no answer; and a report reached me last night that, in that district, Government corn was being distributed to the Kurdish villages, but not to the Christian, but I have not yet been able to test the accuracy of this. In the meantime snow has fallen heavily in the mountains, so as to render transport very difficult, and make it too late to sow this autumn. I am writing to-day to the Vali to ask what steps the Government is taking to provide against famine, and to point out that any further delay in taking the necessary measures must inevitably lead to terrible distress, for which the Government will be responsible.

I think it likely that part of the inaction of the Local Government is due to the urgent demands received from Constantinople for money, and to the necessity for providing for the wants of the troops, so that it would be very desirable for the Central Government to be urged to have some regard for the needs of the provinces, but I believe that part is due to the fault of the local authorities themselves.

I will report as soon as possible any further information I may be able to obtain with reference to the amount of distress, and the measures taken to meet it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 13.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(Confidential.) *Van, November 22, 1879.*

Sir,

ON the evening of the 15th instant, a report reached me that a movement was on foot among the Armenians of Van to obtain signatures to a petition praying for admission to the Orthodox Greek Church, the object being to establish a claim on Russia for protection and deliverance from their present oppressed condition. The next morning I sent the following telegram in cypher to the Ambassador:—

"I have just heard a report that a movement is on foot among the Armenians to obtain signatures to a petition for admission to the Greek Church, in order to claim Russian protection. I do not yet know extent of it or agents."

I have since heard that between 2,500 and 3,000 signatures have been appended to the petition in the town itself, and that it is now being sent round to the villages, where no doubt a very large number of signatures will be added, since, as I reported in my despatch of the 16th October, the peasantry have a strong inclination towards Russia. I have not been able to find out the prime movers in this affair, or whether Russian emissaries have been at work.

The Armenian Archbishop has informed me that some persons came to him and told him what was going on, and that he said to them: "You are sensible men, why do you do so senseless a thing?"

They replied: "There are still more sensible men behind us. We find the Patriarch at Constantinople can do nothing for us, you can do nothing. We thought the British Consuls might do something, but they cannot; Sumih Pasha does nothing, the Reform Commissioners have done nothing at Erzeroum, and now we must try if Russia will do something."

The Archbishop said that as these men had come to him in confidence, he could not give me their names. I do not think that it is necessary to suppose that Russian Agents have been at work. I am informed that a movement of the same kind was started some time ago in Van, but that when a prospect appeared to open of improvement being effected by English influence it came to an end. Now the people are beginning to despair again, and the movement has commenced afresh. I do all I can to encourage the people, but I must state in the most distinct manner that I see many signs that their patience is being rapidly exhausted, and I am as certain as it is possible to be of anything in the future that a general appeal will be made by the Armenians to Russia in the spring at the latest, if not before, unless a considerable alteration in their condition is brought about by England's influence. This will be the result, not of love for Russia but of despair. If the Reform Commissioners continue to effect nothing, and the weeks pass without signs of result from British influence, the people will believe that England has made her effort and failed, and will turn elsewhere. The same effect will be produced on the Turks and the Kurds; they will think they can do what they please; the condition of the Christians will be worse than if England had never interfered, and Russia will be called on for deliverance by universal acclamation.

The Government here seems determined to do nothing for the Christians unless absolutely forced to it. The slight indications of improvement that I have sometimes hoped were showing themselves seem to have been but *ignes fatui*. The Vali is either himself hostile to the Christians, or else incapable of withstanding the influence of the bad men by whom he is surrounded. The influence of the Defterdar is especially pernicious, and there are besides the Temur Oghlou and other prominent Turks, whose weight is always thrown into the scale against improvement. Samih Pasha seems to be doing nothing, although I am told he is trying hard to get laudatory notices written of him to the newspapers.

The Kurdish Chiefs who had been summoned to Van have been sent home again in honour, after having paid various sums to Government, and it is greatly to be feared that they will be encouraged by their treatment to oppress still more the peasantry, and that they will extort from them the sums they have had to pay the Government.

I am glad to be able to say that I hear good accounts of Toussoun Pasha's administration in Hakkiari, and the Kaimakams of Moks, Bitlis, Arjesh, and Ardschag (lately removed from Gevver) are also spoken well of.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 13.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Van, November 28, 1879.

Sir,

THE movement I mentioned in my last despatch among the Armenians for admission to the Greek Church has produced a counter-demonstration. The day before yesterday the Armenian Archbishop and his brother called on me as a deputation from a number of the leading Armenians of the town, bringing an address, a translation of which I inclose. They informed me that they had been exerting themselves to curb the movement towards the Greek Church by assurances that aid from England would not fail the Armenians, and hoped that they had to a certain extent succeeded. But there is no doubt that the movement would begin again with renewed vigour if a tangible improvement in the condition of the Christians did not manifest itself within a limited time.

The first four days of this week having been occupied by the feast of Kurban Bairam, business has been suspended, and matters remain *in statu quo*.

The Reform Commissioners are expected here to-morrow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 13.

The Armenian Deputation of Vashoragan to Captain Clayton.

(Translation.) *Van, November 25, 1879.*

Sir,

YOU have no doubt already become aware that the insufferable miseries and oppressions of the Armenian Christians are always due to the encouragement of the Government, and that the barbarous Kurds are only a successful instrument in the hands

of the Government, sometimes to commit horrible crimes and cruelties, sometimes to threaten the Christians, and always to serve as an excuse for not carrying out the most necessary reforms. We therefore venture to say that we are principally oppressed, in the first place by the Central Government, in the second place by the fanatical Turkish Aghas living amongst the Armenian people, and enjoying great influence in the Local Government, and, in the third place, by the Kurds.

It is a matter of fact for us, and for all who love to tell the truth, that the Government continually uses the assistance of the fanatical Turkish Aghas to excite and rouse up the Kurds against the Armenians, to oppress the helpless poor people, and to drive them away from their native country, in order to be able once for all to annihilate the hateful Armenian question, and to hinder the work of civilization of ancient Turkey; and whenever Europe hears the heartrending cries and sighs of the poor Armenian Christians, and tries to ameliorate our painful situation, the Government immediately incites in secret the Kurds to make rebellious movements, by which means it is very easy to deceive Europe, saying that there is insurrection in the country, and that money as well as time is above all necessary to be able to keep the Kurds in order.

If the Great Powers really believe the impudent and endless cheats of the Turkish Government, thinking that the so-called Imperial Commissioners will be able to carry out the promised reforms, or that the Government itself sincerely desires to ameliorate the bad condition of the whole country, but unfortunately is not able to do so, we venture to say that such a belief, magnanimous and praiseworthy in itself, is, to our regret, very dangerous, and takes all our hopes away. If Europe wrongly believes that the Kurds really are invincible, it would not be difficult to prove that at any rate there is some error in this belief.

If the Armenians were only for a short time permitted to have recourse to arms for their own protection against the attacks of the Kurds, you would see that these bloody wolves would become like gentle lambs, being obliged to live at peace with us. Why, then, it may be asked, are the Armenians not taking such steps in order to protect themselves? Because, we answer, the Armenians believe that Great Britain will be able to decide the Armenian question without human sacrifices, and therefore they have waited hitherto. But patience has, too, its end. The precious lifetime is passing away for the Armenian people, and from day to day the hopes of a better condition are vanishing, and we dare to say the whole Armenian nation is driven to despair, and if the painful situation in which we suffer and languish is not as soon as possible alleviated, every one will be tempted to decide the most serious question of the existence or destruction of the Armenian nation for himself, and those who have solemnly undertaken before the world the great work of the protection of the Christians in the East may be guilty of our blood, which will be shed in behalf of our native country, nation, and religion.

The Congress of Berlin has confided the execution of the EXIst Article of the Treaty to the false promises of that Government whose far-famed tricks being well known, it has been found necessary to decide immediately the important question of Eastern Roumelia; but the poor Armenians and their questions have again been handed over to the Turks. Thus the care and the cure of the poor wounded lamb has been confided to the same fierce wolf which furiously had pursued it in order to tear it to pieces. From that time we have been delivered without pity to the horrible vengeance of our enemies, perhaps as a reward for our perseverance and our being able to maintain our existence as Armenian Christians during these past five calamitous centuries, suffering and enduring unspeakable oppressions and injuries for the sake of being Christians.

Meanwhile we felt a new hope when the Anglo-Turkish Convention was signed which we thought would put an end to our Egyptian slavery, as the mighty visitation of the eternal justice did for Israel. But we are extremely sorry to say that since that time our condition has become worse than before, and our hopes have again begun to vanish, because England has seemed to follow Turkey rather than to be her guide. Thus the people got the notion that the Armenians, with their questions, had been sacrificed to the Treaty of Cyprus. On the whole we have again been driven to despair. Especially the peasants, being extremely despondent, have begun to meditate horrible ways of deliverance from the accursed yoke of the Turkish Government. There are now very dangerous movements and intentions on foot among the Armenian population of Vasbouragan (Province of Van) to accept the Russian Church, and this is the cause of our now coming to you, whose personal high dignity is a great assurance for us that we shall be kindly heard in what we are going to intreat you.

The despondent Armenian population of Vasbouragan has already been encouraged by seeing the energy you have kindly shown in the affairs of Haraganz and Ardamid, and therefore again has recourse to you in our extremely bad and miserable condition,

being sure that you are able, by the strong influence of Great Britain's power, to protect the helpless Armenian Christians, and thus to raise us again in the time of our fall. If we only might be permitted to enjoy the high protection of Her Majesty's Government, Armenia and the Armenians will be for ever grateful to the great, free, and noble English nation.

We beg, &c.
The Armenian Deputation of Vasbouragan,
(Signed) Prof. D. AMIRJIAN.
SIMEON GUNESHIAN.
SETRAG D. DEVGANZ.
NISHAN SHIRMANIAN.
MATTHEOS VARTABED, *Prior of Hokwotz Wankh.*
ARISTAGES VARTABED, *of Wurakh Wankh.*
(And 250 signatures.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 13.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(Confidential.) *Van, December 2, 1879.*

Sir,

I HAVE been informed by Major Kansaragan, the Russian Vice-Consul, that a couple of days ago he was waited on by a number of men who said they had come as a deputation from 1,500 families of the district of Shaddakh begging to become Russian subjects. He said that he had told them that he could not receive such a petition, but added that he should, of course, have to report the incident, and that he felt sure that, if a considerable change did not take place in the condition of the country before the spring, very serious events would then happen.

The Reform Commissioners, Yussuf Pasha and Serkis Effendi, have arrived here, and their Imperial Firman was read yesterday. They have informed me that they found the state of the country on their journey here very bad, especially at Mush, where Serkis Effendi characterized the situation as "complete anarchy." They remained there twelve days, and during that time five Christians were assassinated.

I asked Yussuf Pasha whether it was true that their instructions were merely to inspect at Van and report to Constantinople, and he replied that they possessed certain powers to act, but that in any matters exceeding their powers they would have to report to Constantinople.

I saw three days ago the "Coupeur" Tchilingiroff, who is an intimate friend of Sheikh Obeydullah. He said that the Sheikh had made no insurrection against the Turkish Government; that the truth was that, after the usual Kurdish fashion, he had to chastise another Kurdish tribe which was plundering his villages; that then the Imperial troops had interfered, and that he had been obliged in self-defence to resist them. The engagement which took place between the Sheikh's son, Abd-ul-Kader, and the troops from Mosul, Tchilingiroff thus explained:—The officer commanding these troops demanded three years' arrears of taxes; Abd-ul-Kader asked for time which the officer refused, and then Abd-ul-Kader, being young and impetuous, collected some 5,000 men, and attacked the troops, but without his father's knowledge or sanction.

Such is Tchilingiroff's account, but he bears no good character, and there is plenty of proof that the Sheikh really did endeavour to throw off the Turkish rule and establish himself as an independent Prince, and that he will be a continual danger to the Turkish Government. But the latter appears to have thought fit to accept his version of the transaction, and to try to keep him quiet by honouring and flattering him.

Tchilingiroff brought me a letter from Mar Yosup, the Nestorian Metropolitan of Marukh, complaining of the doings of the Imperial troops; that they had demanded three years' arrears of taxes when the peasantry had nothing to pay, and had plundered and destroyed villages when their demands were not satisfied. But Mar Yusup lives in the immediate neighbourhood of Sheikh Obeydullah, and is in continual communication with him, and his statements must, therefore, be received with caution, as they may have been dictated by the Sheikh in order to support his account of the transactions between himself and the Turkish authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 6 in No. 13.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

Erzeroum, December 5, 1879.

Sir,

ON the 25th ultimo I received the following telegram from his Excellency the British Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"*Therapia, November 24.*

"I have received a telegram from certain delegates from Keghi, complaining of miscarriage of justice, and expressing despair at their unhappy condition. Endeavour to communicate with them, and persuade them to be patient and loyal, as I have reason to know the Sultan is taking measures to ensure their protection for the future, which will, I hope, prove very satisfactory to them and their Christian fellow-countrymen."

I immediately communicated with the representatives of that district, who were much gratified to learn that some notice had at last been taken by the Sultan of their grievances.

On the same day the Vali informed me that he had given orders to the Council to finish as speedily as possible the Keghi cases, and from Nafyz Pasha, the Inspector-General of the Tribunal, I learnt that the trial of the Beys was to recommence on Saturday the 29th, and, being carried on with energy, was to be finished by the 3rd or 4th of the present month. I regret to say this desired result was not attained.

At the moment, however, when the people of Keghi began once more to despair of justice, a telegram arrived from Constantinople informing the Vali that the people of Keghi had telegraphed to the British Ambassador, and that it was the Sultan's pleasure that these cases should be finished without delay. Once again, therefore, the wheel has been set in motion, and now I am assured that the examination will be concluded and judgment given at the end of ten days.

But, unfortunately, it does not follow that immediate punishment will succeed this judgment. To begin with, the sentences pronounced upon the Beys will, in all probality, be exceedingly light, and, secondly, they have already telegraphed to Constantinople complaining that they cannot obtain justice from the Courts here. To this telegram the Porte has answered that the Beys have the option of appealing to a higher Court if they are dissatisfied with the judgment now passed on them, and I have it on the best authority that it is their intention so to do. I need not point out to you that if they are permitted to take such steps justice will be entirely defeated. The partiality shown to the Beys by the members of the Court is notorious; in fact, it is only the pressure placed on them by the Porte at this moment which induces them to act at all, and if they can possibly devise for the Beys any means of escape they will most assuredly not hesitate to do so.

To secure, therefore, this already too tardy justice, it appears to me that it will be necessary to endeavour to persuade the Sultan to use the Royal prerogative and insist that there should be no appeal on the part of the Beys to a higher Court from the sentence which may be now awarded. If this is not done, the termination of these cases will be indefinite, for even after examination in a higher Court, should dissatisfaction as to sentence be expressed by the criminals, and it assuredly will be expressed, then a further appeal can be made to Constantinople; their intention being to gain time until some change in European policy may assist them out of their difficulties. Should appeal be made and be accepted, the effect here will be altogether most pernicious. Behind the Keghi cases are those of Baiburt, which, as you are well aware, have been waiting many months for settlement.

Little chance for the Baiburt people to obtain justice if those Beys too, see that in appeal is the means of escape. Will it not be a scandalous thing to permit such a course when it is so well known that the severest punishment the Beys are likely to receive at the hands of the Tribunals here will not in any way compensate for the iniquities they have so long practised in these provinces. Ample evidence has been taken by the Commission, ample proof exists of their guilt. The whole city and the country side are now watching the case of the Keghi Beys. Fully aware of the pressure which has been put upon the Government here, and knowing it to be the result of English interference, the people watch with keener interest than ever the issue of the struggle. At this moment the Beys, to outward appearance, have the worst of it.

The Courts, compelled into action, can hardly defer much longer giving sentence. But the game is not up. So soon as the sentences are pronounced there will be a general appeal against them. The Beys will breathe again, and the people will very rightly say that the interference of England and the orders of the Sublime Porte do not count for

much at Erzeroum. I most earnestly request, therefore, that when the appeal is made powerful influence may be brought to bear to prevent the use of this loophole of escape.

The Kaïmakam of Keghi has forwarded me a letter which leaves no doubt that, as I hinted in despatch No. 3, Political, a conspiracy is on foot to dislodge him. In this letter he begs that I will interfere in his behalf. A similar letter has been addressed by him to the Russian Consul, and a petition, of which I inclose a copy, has been forwarded by the people of Keghi, both Moslem and Christian, to the Vali. This petition shows clearly in what estimation he is held by the entire population of his district.

I beg to inform you that after some difficulty I have obtained the release of the Protestant teacher, Moorad, of Hozloo, who was imprisoned on the 15th October last for accidentally wounding a man with a revolver, and kept for forty-five days in chains by the Kaïmakam of Chanous. I need not inform you of the character of this Kaïmakam; his fanaticism and double-dealing are well known to you, but in this circumstance I see a slight chance of obtaining his removal, which ought to be insisted on. His treatment of the Protestant teacher Moorad I find to be entirely illegal. In the first place, he failed to send the Report of the examination to Erzeroum; then he imprisoned him without sentence; and lastly, kept him in chains without permission from the Government here. I hope by placing these facts, which are capable of very exact proof, before the Vali, to induce him to call Iskander Bey to account.

I have received a very bad report from the Bayazid district of the distress occasioned by the dearth of wheat. People who could so afford have offered as much as £T 2½ for 6 gots, or the almost unheard-of price of 666 piastres the somar, but without being able to obtain it. There is no wheat sown in this district. In Alashgerd things are not quite so bad, but the destitution is very great, and at Moolah-Suleiman thirteen families are literally starving.

The new Mutessarif does not appear to be taking any steps to restrain the depredations of the Kurds or alleviate the distress of the people. In short, the sandjak appears to be now in a worse state than when I visited it in the autumn.

In the neighbourhood of Erzeroum the wheat is being sold, and I am given to understand that a Company of merchants are buying now in large quantities for the purpose of selling again at exorbitant rates to the poor during the winter. I fear it is not possible to put a stop to this evil, for a large sum of money has been urgently demanded by the Porte from the vilayet, and it being absolutely necessary to send a portion of this sum to Constantinople, the Government here cannot well afford to be over scrupulous in the means of procuring the money.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 13.

Petition of Turkish and Christian Inhabitants of Keghi to the Vali.

(Translation.)

To his Excellency the Vali of Erzeroum.

AS the first and strongest desire of the Sultan is to protect the rights of his subjects and to keep them in security, to endeavour to increase their progress in sciences and arts, and to preserve them in tranquillity, so in like manner we hope also yours may be. To obtain this much wished for result surely it is necessary to appoint officers acquainted with the habits of the people and versed in the rules and laws of Government. It is a well-known fact that the Kaïmakam of Keghi governs thoroughly well his province, and everybody is aware that for the year during which he has occupied that position he has been just, has surrounded himself with justice, and has never taken a bribe; just as, throwing away his own tranquillity, he works for that of the people, so in like manner he has always done his best to increase the revenue of the Government, to keep it in security, and send it to the proper quarter at the proper time. He has done much also for the progress of his people. Therefore we may indeed say that we have never had in our province a man so greatly desiring the honour of the Government and the tranquillity of the people. He never has made any distinction whatever between Christians and Mahommedans, he has invariably advised us to conduct ourselves properly and to live peaceably. But instead of rewarding his equitable judgment, evilly-disposed individuals have spoken constantly against him in Erzeroum. They have denounced him as a protector of the Christians, and have demanded daily his dismissal. At length they have

succeeded to remove him from office, and have determined to send in his place as Vice-Kaimakam a certain Suleiman Bey from Tergian. We hope that your Excellency will not consent to the removal of such a man, versed in administrative laws and so equitable in his actions. We are not altogether sure of his absolute removal, but we beg your Excellency to prevent such a deed occurring. Nevertheless, should he be removed, then at the proper time all of us inhabitants of Keghi, Christians and Turks, will petition you and also the Sublime Porte that this excellent man should be reinstated in the position he has hitherto occupied.

Your, &c.
(Signed by 53 Turks and 41 Armenians.)

Keghi, November 22, 1879.

Inclosure 8 in No. 13.

Précis of Despatch from Vice-Consul Russell to Colonel Miles.

Mossul, November 5, 1879.

THE Mutessarif of Mossul has prohibited the export of the following articles, viz.:—figs, raisins, peas, lentils, onions, burghul, madkoka (no English names for these), wheat, barley, rice, grease, sesame, cut straw, and butter.

The prohibition of export of those articles has become necessary, as great fears are entertained that if rain does not fall shortly there will be a famine at Mossul. The last harvest was a very bad one. The price of wheat is now 24 to 26 piastres the wazna, and barley 16 to 18 piastres. Prices have been gradually rising, and riots have very nearly taken place in the wheat bazaars. The holders of grain withhold their stores in the hope of higher prices. Everthing is 50 per cent. dearer than it was two years ago.

Inclosure 9 in No. 13.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Van, November 20, 1879.

Sir,

SINCE my arrival in this country my attention has naturally been much directed to the question of reform here, and its political conditions. The result of my examination of the subject is very briefly embodied in the paper I inclose. I cannot hope to claim for it much originality or value; but I thought I ought to make known the conclusions at which I have arrived, and I trust that I shall not be considered to have exceeded my duty in so doing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 10 in No. 13.

Report by Captain Clayton on Reforms in Van.

IN the provinces of Asiatic Turkey, which in ancient times formed part of the Armenian kingdom, there now exist a variety of races. There are Armenians, Turks, Nestorians, and Kurds, with a small proportion of Circassians and other minor Mohammedan races. According to the history of Armenia by Dr. Issaverdenz, published in Venice in 1874, there are in Turkish Armenia about 5,000,000 inhabitants, of whom 2,500,000 are Armenians. The Nestorians may, perhaps, number between 250,000 and 500,000. Therefore the Christian population approaches the half of the whole population, the remainder being principally composed of Turks and Kurds of various races.

According to the same authority there are in the rest of Turkey 550,000 Armenians; in Russian territory, 1,220,000; in Persia, 170,000; in Western Europe, 35,000; in India and the East, 25,000: making a total Armenian population in the world of very nearly 4,000,000.

Now, in considering the question of reform in Armenia, and its political results, an element in the problem which must not be lost sight of is the great feeling of nationality among the Armenians. They remember the traditions that they were formerly a great nation, and they aspire to being a nation again in the future. It is certain that if tranquillity and prosperity were to be given to this country there would lie a great influ

Armenians from abroad, all filled with the idea of resuscitating their people as a nation and eventually forming an independent State, though for a time they would probably be content with security and progress under Turkish rule. What effect would such a state of things have upon Russia? She could hardly look with indifference upon a movement for creating an Armenian State. As we have seen, she has a great many Armenians under her rule, and possesses a considerable portion of territory that was once Armenia. There might be a demand for the restoration to an Armenian State of the territory belonging formerly to Armenia, and now containing a large Armenian population; but, if this demand were not made, or could be refused, there would be a large immigration into Turkish Armenia of Russian Armenians, desirous of obtaining part in the independent State likely there to be developed. This immigration would aid its development, and strengthen it when formed. But such a State would be a barrier to Russian advance southwards. If, therefore, there is reason to suppose that Russia really has the desire to advance towards the south, we must be prepared for her making endeavours to prevent a strong and independent Armenia from being formed. She may either by intrigue endeavour to maintain the present misrule, so that Armenia may in despair call upon her to take possession; or, if an Armenian State be actually formed, may work to prevent its becoming strong and impregnable, either by insidious flattery so that it may form an intimate alliance with her, destined to end in absorption, or by so fomenting party quarrels, &c., as to bring about anarchy in the newly-formed State, which may necessitate her interposition.

Therefore, in determining what shall be done for this part of the Turkish Empire, one of two objects must be kept in view: either so to manage the task of reform as to prevent an independent Armenian State from being formed, or else to take care that it is so guaranteed and watched over in its internal development as to give no opening for Russian interference; for though we may hope that our anxieties are without foundation, yet we should not neglect the necessary precautions to guard against danger.

The first of these objects can only be attained in one of two ways: either by a total change of disposition and system on the part of the Turks assimilating the Armenians into their system and Government, so that the latter might themselves look to the maintenance of the Empire as their best means for advancement, individually and as a people; or by the substitution of the Turkish rule in Asia of another authority, such as an English or International Protectorate, that would give an opening for Armenian aspirations at the central seat of Government, so that the Armenians might propose to themselves the ideal of becoming the leaders of a large and powerful, though mixed, State of Asia Minor, rather than of forming a homogeneous, but comparatively weak, Principality in their own special country.

As I do not believe in the transformation of the Turkish rule, for reasons which I will presently give, in my opinion the choice by England or Europe of the attempt, while introducing order and regularity into Asia Minor, to prevent the growth of an Armenian State, would necessitate the practical overthrow of the Turkish Government within a very limited time.

If it be desired to maintain, if possible, the Turkish Government, while giving prosperity to Asia Minor, the prospect must be faced of the growth of an Armenian nationality which will sooner or later demand independence.

That this may be shorn as far as possible of the dangers due to the present unfitness of the Armenians for power and the mixture of races in Armenia, the reforms introduced must be so arranged as, while maintaining for a time a strong executive to guard against danger from fanaticism, either on the part of Moslems or Christians, and party squabbles among the latter, as well as to keep in order the Kurds, at the same time to spread abroad a political education teaching the people the true causes of strength, the danger of faction, and the necessity of moderation and toleration, and accustom them little by little to the possession and exercise of power. In doing this the difficulties due to the mixed population must be encountered. A great benefit would accrue from encouraging the emigration of the Osmanli population to other parts of Asia Minor, where the Mahommedans are in a majority, and the counter-transfer of Armenians to this country. If this could be quietly effected, there would remain the Nestorians and the Kurds. The former should be encouraged to throw in their fortunes with the Armenians and form one people, the *odium theologicum* being studiously softened down by liberal education; but the Kurds must at first be treated as a race to be kept in order by force and obliged to live tranquilly. Education should, as far as possible, be introduced among them, and if the tranquillizing measures did not end in their gradual dying out, it might be hoped that education might make them good citizens, fit to take

their share in the Government, and perhaps turn Christian, as their Moslem fanaticism is a growth of very recent date. They have many customs apparently of Christian origin; till lately they have been friendly to the Christians, and the Armenians believe them to be of the same race as themselves. It might be worth while at first to assign certain territories to the Kurds, removing the Christians from those territories, and to leave them there independent as long as they did not molest their neighbours, endeavouring, at the same time, to introduce religion and education amongst them; but if this failed they must be conquered outright and forced into submission and quiet.

By such measures, still under Turkish rule, the dangers to Armenia of immediate autonomy would be avoided and the people prepared for the time when I believe inevitably the Turkish Empire will break up, and Armenia may detach herself as an independent State. For some time after that event European and English control must remain paramount in her Government, to prevent splitting up by faction, and Russia's consequent opportunity; but this control could be gradually withdrawn as the new nation proved its capability of standing alone.

The next point for consideration is the nature of the reforms to be introduced to carry out this programme.

Before deciding this it is necessary to look into the causes of the present misgovernment and of the misery of the people.

These causes may be put into two categories: those which affect the whole country and population, and those which affect especially the Christian population.

In the first category may be placed:—

Firstly, the universal official corruption which allows all justice to be perverted by bribery, and brings about great iniquities in the collection of taxation.

Secondly, the indolent character of the modern Turks, leading to stagnation in the Government and the desire of leaving matters as they are.

Thirdly, the universal selfishness which destroys all sympathy between the upper classes and the lower, leading the former to look upon the latter as inferior beings, with no rights, and who only exist that those above them may suck from them all they can.

To the second category belong:—

Firstly, religious fanaticism, leading to hatred of the Christians; and—

Secondly, jealousy of the Christians, leading the ruling race to desire to keep them down lest they should grow so powerful as to endanger the Osmanli supremacy.

There is an additional secondary cause of the evil state of things, namely: financial difficulties, from which arise insufficient salaries to officials, tending to corruption, and non-payment of police and troops, leading to all sorts of irregularities. This cause is itself a result of the two former categories of causes; the indolence and luxury of the Turkish Government wasting large sums of money, the corruption of officials misappropriating a great part of the revenue, the hatred and jealousy of the Christians preventing them from associating for commercial and mining enterprises, and the insecurity of property consequent on all the vices of government together, circumscribing the area and progress of agriculture and trade.

In considering how reforms are to be carried out, it is necessary to have a clear idea of the strength of these evil influences and of the prospect of overcoming them.

The vices of the first category—corruption, indolence, and selfishness—are deeply ingrained in the Turkish official system, and could not possibly be eradicated by any spontaneous efforts, except after a long interval of time. I know that there are Turks who are enlightened and honest, but they are comparatively few in number, and their influence is crushed and stifled by the mass of those of opposite character, and although it is not impossible that in time their example might bring about a general improvement, yet the process must necessarily be a long one, and the present crisis is too acute for it to be possible to wait for such a distant and problematical result. The only way in which improvement in these regards could be quickly effected would be by the exertions of a Monarch enlightened enough to see the destructive tendencies of the present system and strong enough to resist all attacks made on him by underground influences, and to appoint to the various posts men of approved integrity, strength of character, and enlightenment, who would spread into the ranks below them the influence of their own character and example.

But the financial difficulty would still much embarrass even such a Monarch. True, a strong will might curtail a good deal of extravagant and useless expenditure, and a reformed Administration would, in a short time, much increase the revenue by putting a stop to official peculation and embezzlement, and by the increase in the wealth of the country that would quickly result from security of property and judicious encouragement of enterprise; but still there would be an interval of time before the increased revenue

would meet the increased expenditure caused by proper payment of officials and troops, even if all possible economies were carried out, and, to tide over this interval, external assistance would be needed.

As regards the second category of evil influences, to consider first the religious animosity against the Christians. It must be remembered that the Mahommedan religion, as at present preached, is not a liberal one, but utterly condemns all who do not belong to it. It is opposed to enlightenment, for its power lies in the blind following of its leaders by the laity, and therefore its ministers will be the uncompromising opponents of all measures tending to weaken their hold on the Moslems, by educating and enlightening them, or to improve the condition of the Christians. The Sultan, as Caliph, considering himself the head of the Faithful, is peculiarly under religious influence, being unwilling to lose any of the prestige which, as Caliph, he may possess, through laying himself open to the accusation of being indifferent to the obligations of his position, and false to his religion by encouraging infidels. An exceptionally strong man as Sovereign would be required to withstand the priestly influence.

Lastly, we come to the jealousy and fear of the Christians. This is, perhaps, the strongest influence of them all, and that affording the least hope, because it rests upon so real a foundation, and touches so vitally the whole Ottoman power. The Ottoman rule is essentially the rule of the sword as regards the Christians; an intellectually and morally inferior race keeping in subjection others intellectually and morally superior. Even now the Christian element monopolizes the greater part of the industrial, agricultural, and commercial occupations, and, if it were allowed full play, it must inevitably show itself so superior in power of mind, in industry, and in material prosperity, that the anomoly of its being governed by the stationary, if not retrograde Osmanli race, would show itself so preposterous that it could be no longer permitted. The Turks know this full well, and it is not in human nature to expect that they will willingly inaugurate a system of administration that must infallibly end in their own effacement. There may be enthusiasts among them who believe that the Turks might grow intellectually and industrially at the same rate as the Christians, and that with a free Government they might be able to hold their own and still retain their power and pre-eminence; but the overwhelming majority know full well that their reign is a reign of terror, and that if equality were admitted, they would have to overcome their constitutional laziness, and work hard to maintain their position, and that even if they adopted so disagreeable a course, their success would be but doubtful, and therefore they will oppose to the utmost any innovation that would tend to bring them into so dire a predicament. A Monarch might be conceivably strong enough to overcome the opposition of corruption and religion, but it is scarcely possible that he could overcome this last influence, which is, in fact, the omnipotent instinct of self-preservation. If he attempted to do so, it would rise up and crush him. For it must be borne in mind that there is now no quiet spot to which the Turkish Government might flee away and be at rest, even by the sacrifice of provinces which are mostly Christian. The whole Empire is more or less under the surveillance of the European Powers and, reforms are demanded not only for European Turkey and Armenia, but for Asia Minor and the other Asiatic provinces also.

Such are the difficulties which beset spontaneous reform in the Turkish Empire. Is the present or any possible Monarch likely to be able successfully to cope with them?

Therefore the conclusion must be drawn that though fair words may be plentiful, no reliance can possibly be placed on any promises or professed desire on the part of the Turkish Government for reform, and that it must be forced to do what is required of it; and, moreover, that the great majority of subordinate officials will resist the carrying out of reforms to the utmost, either actively or passively; and, therefore, that it will be necessary to take steps to secure that the pressure applied reaches effectively even the distant ramifications of the Governmental organization.

We will now pass to the consideration of the particular evils, consequent on the vices of Turkish government, from which the people in the Armenian provinces are suffering and the measures that may be taken for their removal.

The people in the Armenian provinces suffer under the following provincial evils:—

Firstly, robbery, exaction, and oppression at the hands of the Kurds. In some parts nomad Kurds make raids on villages, carrying off flocks and herds and other plunder, and sometimes burning what they cannot carry away. In other parts influential Kurdish families parcel out the villages (especially Christian) in their neighbourhood among their various members, and regard them as their property. The inhabitants have

to pay them black-mail, cultivate their lands, pasture their flocks, and give and do for them anything they may demand.

Secondly, hardships of taxation. The Government now in its need of money is pressing heavily on the rural population, demanding arrears which have accumulated in consequence of inability to pay during the last two years, owing to the war and the depredations of the Kurds, and this at a time when the scantiness of the harvest and wholesale plunder by the Kurds have reduced the peasantry to the utmost straits. The rapacity of officials is also always a cause of iniquity in the collection of taxation.

Thirdly, in many cases authority and office have been given to Kurdish Chiefs, sometimes of noted bad character, so that they obtain as it were a charter to prey upon and oppress the country people.

Fourthly, many villages have a mixed population of Turks and Armenians, and in such cases the Armenians suffer innumerable oppressions and wrongs at the hands of their Turkish neighbours. Their property, the honour of their women, and their lives are none of them safe.

Fifthly, the ill-behaviour of zaptiehs and troops. Owing to the financial difficulties of the Government they receive little or no pay, and when marching or stationed in country districts are quartered on the inhabitants. They are housed and fed at the expense of the villagers, giving more or less regularly receipts for what they have received, but in most cases the receipts do not represent anything like what is actually provided, and are besides seldom or never paid. The officers and men demand the best of everything, and sometimes force the people even to give them money, and beat and otherwise ill-treat them if their demands are not complied with.

Sixthly, the almost impossibility of obtaining justice or redress for wrongs, especially if the complainant be a Christian. The cause of this is not so much the badness of the system that nominally prevails as the character of the men who should carry it out. The local Medjlisses nearly if not quite always contain a majority of corrupt members who pervert justice for bribes, and a majority of voices carries the decision. Appeals are certainly always permitted to a higher Court, but the appeal is often as unjustly tried as the original case, the composition of the Courts being similar, and the bringing up of a case for trial and its trial are often so long delayed and spun out by corrupt influences, that the means of the petitioner are exhausted, and he can no longer prosecute his cause. There are many influential persons who profit by wrong, and are powerful enough to influence even the Valis, and so prevent the purification of the Medjlisses. The hostility of the ruling race to the Christians, and the non-acceptance of Christian evidence against a Mussulman renders it especially difficult for a Christian to obtain justice.

Next as to the means that may be taken for rectifying these wrongs. I have tried to show that even if the Central Government were brought to feel the necessity of reform, the officials in the provinces would be sure to resist actively or passively, and strong influence would be brought to bear upon them to nullify the reforms they might be ordered to carry out, and that, therefore, machinery must be employed that would ensure the effective working of improvements even in the distant provinces. I have convinced myself that without European officials to some extent effectual reform is impossible.

In the first place it would be necessary that the Valis should have more independence in their Governments, so as to be able to take action and employ some part of the revenue of their provinces to local purposes, without having to refer everything to Constantinople. But for it to be safe for this power to be entrusted to them and for them to be able to administer their provinces with equal regard to the rights and welfare of all, in spite of the sinister influences surrounding them, they must be possessed of exceptional enlightenment, capability, honesty, and firmness. It is, to say the least of it, doubtful if a sufficient number of such men could be found for all the provinces, and it would therefore be well to associate with the Vali a European, preferably an Englishmen, as assessor, not to be his equal, but always to sit with him, to share his deliberations, assist him with his advice, and support him with his influence in right action. Such an assessor, if a man of capability, could not fail to have the greatest influence, for the Vali would know that all his actions, decisions, and deliberations were known to him, and that, therefore, any failure in action could not be kept secret, but would be certainly exposed.

Thus the efficiency and uprightness of the highest authority in each province would be guaranteed. But that will not be enough, for he must delegate much of his authority to subordinates, and pure administration of justice and fairness in the collection of taxation must be guaranteed. Right conduct on the part of Kaïmakams, Mudirs, &c., would be, to a considerable extent, ensured by making them responsible to the Vali, and

giving him, assisted by his European assessor, the power of removal and appointment. No better guarantee for their good behaviour could easily be devised at present.

Next, as to the administration of justice. We have seen that a principal cause of its failure is the corruption of the Medjlisses. This might be rectified to a certain extent by Valis, Kaïmakams, &c., removing members notoriously corrupt, and seeing that the elections for those members who are supposed to be chosen by the people are fairly carried out. But for some time, at all events, this would not be enough. Corruption and terrorism is so universal that even if the Kaïmakams, &c., honestly wished the elections to be fairly carried out, which would be to assume a great deal, even with the most careful selection of those officers, it would be almost impossible to prevent sinister influences from bringing about the choice of some members whose integrity could not be depended upon, and moreover, in very many places the Moslems would have a majority of members, and would outvote the Christians in the Medjlisses, and they would always unite against them.

The proposal of the Turkish Government as a substitute for the English suggestion of a European Assessor in all Courts without whose concurrence no decision should be valid, was that European Inspectors should be appointed to watch over the administration of justice. This arrangement would be inadequate to the necessities of the situation, for they would be only able to report, and experience teaches that mere reports would do but little good, as endless time would be spent by the Turkish authorities before any action would be taken on them.

The English plan, on the other hand, would be so great an innovation as to provoke the utmost resistance and hostility. A possibly more feasible arrangement would be to appoint one or more European Judges of Appeal to each vilayet who should make circuits round the different Kaïmakamliks at stated intervals, and to whom appeals should lie. As long as the Courts pronounced decisions sufficiently equitable to discourage the expense of an appeal, they would be left alone, but if any one felt himself aggrieved by a decision of the Court, he should at once give notice of his intention to appeal at the next circuit, and then execution of the decision should be stayed for the time.

On the arrival of the Judge of Appeal he should have the power of ordering fresh trials in all the cases in which appeals had been made, and himself sit in the Court, and without his concurrence no decision should then be valid. In criminal cases he should also be invested with power, if it were brought to his notice that there were grounds for believing that injustice had been done, of ordering a fresh trial in the same manner. In cases involving property above a certain amount an appeal should, as now, further lie to the Courts at the vilayet head-quarters; but to these also a Judge of Appeal should be attached whose functions should be similar. If these officials found that certain members of the Courts were always instrumental in the miscarriage of justice they should have the power of suspending them, and on reference to the Vali or Mutessarif these persons should be removed entirely and fresh appointments made. By such an arrangement as long as justice was fairly done the existing system would be interfered with as little as possible, while a power of righting wrong would be always at hand.

It would be a good thing if the Idaré Medjliss could be enlarged in its composition and functions so as to be a representative consulative Council for the Vali. Probably a good constitution would be official members as at present, and one or two elective members for each Kaïmakamlik, to be chosen by the members of the Medjlisses in the Kaïmakamliks. As the country developed the Idaré Medjliss might gradually be given Parliamentary and legislative functions, and its members be chosen by more popular election.

I am fully aware that the scheme I have sketched for judicial reform is in some respects anomalous, but it must be remembered that this is an anomalous country, and that the problem is to secure a fair probability of justice being done in a land where the ruling social and official feeling is opposed to it, and without inordinate expense.

The improvement of the collection of taxation will present many difficulties, as so much must be left in the hands of native officials, but a good deal might be done by insisting that all receipts should be given in the language of the people paying as well as in Turkish, and by appointing European Controllers who should have power to inspect and examine into all complaints, and summarily to dismiss subordinates convicted of malpractices, and to bring them to trial and punish them more severely in aggravated cases. Of course the system of farming taxes must be given up, and the collection be made by adequately-paid Government officials.

For the protection of the people from the Kurds there would be required a sufficient force of properly-paid and disciplined troops. A gendarmerie would be desirable to keep order in the villages and guard against small attempts at robbery, but the presence of

regular troops is necessary in sufficient numbers to prevent any danger of successful insurrection if the Kurds are irritated by repressive measures, and to follow up and chastise raids of large bodies of nomad Kurds. Arrangements with the Persian Government would also be necessary to prevent criminals, individuals, or tribes, from obtaining impunity by crossing the frontier.

I must reiterate my strong feeling that no real reform is possible here without the co-operation of European officials. Subjects or the Porte, even if Christians, will not answer the purpose. They would not have sufficient character and independence for the difficult tasks that would fall to their lot.

I have been obliged to consider the possibility of having to oppose Russia, but I have been able to notice, in conversation with the Turkish officials, a great anxiety to find out our real relations with that Power, and a scarcely-concealed exultation at any report of differences between the two nations, so that I cannot help feeling that it would be a great advantage in our dealings with Turkey if we could establish a cordial understanding with Russia.

I put forward the suggestions contained in this paper with the utmost diffidence, but I may be permitted to point out that in the scheme of reform I have sketched out there is provision made for the principal things that I have argued should be attended to. There would be a strong executive in the Vali with his English assessor and increased powers, able to control the heterogeneous elements of the population and thus providing for present security; the administration of justice and finance would be improved, and at the same time, by enlarging the functions of the Idaré Medjliss and providing for a modified popular election of its local members, the political education of the people would be begun. How far that education could be carried under the present régime circumstances alone could show, but the manner in which, if circumstances permitted, it could be carried further is indicated, viz., by the gradual grant of legislative power to the Idaré Medjliss. If the separation from the Turkish Empire came there would be the germs of an autonomous organization; the English assessor to the Vali would remain for a time as assistant to the new ruler, and the European judicial and financial officials would also remain to carry on traditions till the new nation became able to stand alone, when the foreign aids might be withdrawn.

It would no doubt be difficult to induce the Porte to consent to the appointment of such European officials as I have suggested, but I am certain that no measure short of this will be effectual in introducing adequate reforms into this province at all events, for the feeling of hostility to the Christians on the part of the Moslems has been greatly increased by the appeal made to, and the interference of, Europe; and if adequate reform is not introduced I am convinced that a general appeal will be made by the Armenians to Russia before the middle of next summer.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON, *Captain, R.E.,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Van.

No. 14.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 3, 1880.)

(No. 1167.)
Constantinople, December 26, 1879.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the despatch addressed by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum to Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan, of the 5th instant, copy of which is forwarded in my despatch No. 1165 of this day's date, respecting the state of the Bayazid district and the proceedings of the Mutessarif, I have addressed a note to the Sublime Porte, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, expressing my regret at the condition of that country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 14.

Note Verbale.

Constantinople, December 23, 1879.

HER Majesty's Ambassador had the honour to receive an official communication from the Sublime Porte on the 16th instant of a telegram from the Governor-General of

the Vilayet of Erzeroum, in which it is stated that the Mutessarif of Bayazid had arrived at his post on the 21st September last, and that he had not ceased from that time, in pursuance of his instructions, to occupy himself with the amelioration of the condition of the inhabitants of that district, to watch over the public security, and to punish the guilty.

Her Majesty's Ambassador regrets to state that the British Vice-Consul at Erzeroum, in a despatch dated the 5th instant, writes as follows with regard to the district of Bayazid and its new Mutessarif:—

"I have received a very unsatisfactory report from the Bayazid district, where the distress occasioned by dearth of wheat is very great. When my informant left Bayazid no order had been received by the Mutessarif to distribute from the Government stores. People who could so afford have offered as much as 2½ Turkish lira for 6 gots, or the almost unheard-of price of 600 piastres the somar, but without being able to obtain it. There is no wheat sown in the district. In Alashgerd things are not quite so bad, but the destitution is very great; and at Mollah Suleiman thirteen families are literally starving.

"The new Mutessarif does not appear to be taking any steps to restrain the depredations of the Kurds or alleviate the distress of the people. In short, the sandjak appears now to be in a worse state than when I visited it in the autumn."

Her Majesty's Ambassador leaves it to the Sublime Porte to reconcile the discrepancy between the report furnished to it by the Governor-General of Erzeroum and that of Captain Everett. He regrets to say, for himself, that all the accounts he has received from the district of Bayazid unfortunately tend to confirm the statements of the British Vice-Consul.

No. 15.

M. von Kuiatkowski to Baron von Haymerle.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, January* 3, 1880.)

(Translation.)
Trebizond, December 5, 1879.

THE confusions of warfare had hardly passed off the scene in Armenia when the Kurdish races in Upper Armenia began again to show their refractoriness towards the Government of the Porte.

The Kurds, by nature a predatory race, to whom, in their seclusion amidst the mountains, European customs and civilization will still, for a long time, be an abomination, have always regarded the fulfilment of military duty and the payment of taxes as a reason for their opposition, and will, to all appearance, persist in doing so.

The Porte had sufficient military force at hand, if it had but really desired to combat the evil at the source. That this, however, was not the case, the choice of Dervisch Pasha as Commander of this expedition to the Dersim is indication enough, for he is an excessively corrupt and insatiably avaricious General.

At the end of last winter it seemed that the matter was again taken in hand somewhat seriously. The revolt had its seat in the Dersim, that tract of land traversed by very high mountains, which, spreading out between the Monsur mountains northward and the Eastern Euphrates (Murad), has only a very narrow inlet from north to south, the Darbogás-Kuludere.

Pooliimür was the head-quarters; hence an advance was made through the Darbogaz; Kozat, Pakh, Kisiklisse, were occupied by battalions. The Kurds, well acquainted with the difficulties of the ground, attacked the troops in their bivouacs by night, were indeed repulsed, their miserable villages burnt, and they themselves robbed of their herds and carpets, but by the accession of Kurds from other districts they were able to hold on. Only quite lately have the Commanders of the flying divisions succeeded in occupying Kisilklisse and Pakh, shutting in the rebels more closely and seizing several Beys. But the Kurds are well acquainted with the weaknesses of the Commanders, who have had no pay for many months, and know how to make them lenient in time of danger by presents of money and horses. Dervisch Pasha returned to Stamboul from Dersim with full purses and fine horses.

Samih Pasha, his successor, is to proceed with unceasing energy. Pooliimür, Kisilklisse, Pakh, Masgird, Rosat, have received garrisons; they are to be governed by Kaimakams of military rank.

In fact the Kurd influence preponderates over all, else why should the continual

insolent robberies by the Kurd Beys Idzindo, Myrsobegoglu, have hitherto remained unpunished? They have even hesitated at no sacrifice of money to keep out of prison.

The Turks themselves are the far greater evil for the Christian population. Averse to labour, lazy, arbitrary profit is their customary demand; wherever they can they exercise the grossest spoliation both on Kurds and Armenians, and the most brutal violence is of ordinary occurrence.

The Kurd can revenge himself; he robs the Turks and slays them wherever he can, but leaves something for the despoiled Armenian.

The one who really suffers is the latter; industrious, laborious, enterprising, he endeavours to acquire what he can, but has to see his gains, his property, his wife's honour snatched away by the brutal Turk.

These outrages occur daily. If the delinquent be a Turk he knows how to free himself from the arm of seeming justice through his coadjutors in the Medjliss; if he be a Kurd the spoil is divided with the Turkish authorities; the Armenian can but look on.

What wonder if the Haiks in various places enter into secret unions, if the Vertabet, nay even the Bishop, encourages his flock to buy arms, and money is collected in order to smuggle arms in. Secret societies with many branches already exist at Mush and Van, and they are all preparing in silence. The Reform Commission stayed four days at Mush; it is unfortunately, as I have repeatedly asserted, but an expensive toy, as one of its members said, to give an apparent gloss to the cry "Reforms in Asia."

Major Trotter, the English Consul at Diarbekir does indeed traverse the localities, and collects the complaints, but in order to satisfy them effectually it would be necessary for Baker Pasha to be on the spot with an efficient gendarmerie, to dismiss all the worthless functionaries—the greatest curse of the country—and to have European Administrators. As matters now stand and are likely to remain, "Reforms in Asia" are mere empty sounds. Albion's Consuls may range about and collect ample materials for the Blue Book; yet all this is fruitless.

Accept, &c.

No. 16.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8, 1880.)

(No. 1171.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 27, 1879.*

WITH reference to Captain Clayton's despatch No. 23 to Major Trotter, copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1565 of the 26th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have addressed a strong remonstrance to the Sublime Porte on the subject of the neglect of the Provincial Governor of Van in relieving the inhabitants of districts threatened with famine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 17.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8, 1880.)

(No. 1184. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 30, 1879.*

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL ELDRIDGE having informed Midhat Pasha confidentially, at my request, that the Prime Minister had at one time intended to have him recalled to take his trial for giving instructions to the Sub-Governors in his vilayet not to put into execution the new Judicial Regulations (as reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1041 of the 28th ultimo), and that I had done my best to prevent this intention being put into execution, his Highness begged him to thank me for the interest I continued to take in him, and to explain to me that he had only suspended the Regulation in question as far as criminal cases were concerned. His Highness argued, Mr. Eldridge thinks with reason, that as he was charged with the maintenance of good order in Syria, it was impossible for him to perform this duty if, after his gendarmes and police had succeeded, with much difficulty, in arresting criminals, they were to be placed at the disposal of Tribunals the members of which were notoriously ignorant and

corrupt, and in the receipt of miserable salaries, irregularly paid, and sometimes not at all. His Highness mentioned several cases, with some of which Mr. Eldridge was acquainted, of notorious criminals and even murderers having been proved not guilty and liberated by the Tribunals, in spite of the remonstrances of the executive authorities, who thus saw malefactors and felons turned adrift to continue their course of crime and to disturb public tranquillity, for which they were held responsible.

His Highness is much irritated against Said Pasha, and seemed to wish that he had been put upon his trial for insubordination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 18.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 8, 1880.)

(No. 1190.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December 31, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a letter which I have received from the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, reporting the assassination of three Armenian Christians of Moosh by Kurds, and complaining of the condition of the Christian population of that town, which he says is as bad as that of the Christians of the district of Van.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 18.

Monsignor Nercès to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Patriarcat Arménien, le 13/25 Décembre, 1879.*

LE Prélat et le Conseil Civil des Arméniens de Moush m'écrivent, en date du 30 Octobre, que l'Arménien Chamchouli Calo, originaire du village de Gumlémir, dans le district de Varton, son fils Mgr. Litief, et son domestique Malkhas, ont été assassinés par les Kurdes dans la Vallée de Chahmélik. Ces trois Chrétiens avaient été décapités et affreusement mutilés.

Dans un Conseil tenu à Moush sous la Présidence des Commissaires Impériaux, le Prélat Arménien a démontré d'une façon irréfutable l'authenticité des récits d'atrocités commises dans le district, lesquels ont été portés à la connaissance du Patriarcat, de la Sublime Porte, du Vali de Van, et des Commissaires. Les fonctionnaires Turcs eux-mêmes ont dû témoigner en faveur des assertions de l'Evêque. Pourtant, nul remède n'a été apporté encore aux maux dont souffrent les Arméniens de Moush, qui sont aussi opprimés que ceux de Van.

C'est pourquoi, ajoute le Prélat, la population Arménienne est au désespoir et beaucoup de familles songent à se placer sous la protection d'une Eglise étrangère. . . . Mgr. Krikoris a parlé aux chefs de ce parti et s'est efforcé d'empêcher cette conversion, en les exhortant de prendre patience et de compter sur la sollicitude du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique. Mais il craint qu'une nouvelle atrocité ne vienne les pousser d'un jour à l'autre à cet acte de désespoir, qui serait un déshonneur en même temps qu'un malheur terrible.

En prenant la liberté de soumettre ces faits à l'appréciation de votre Excellence, je suis plein d'espoir qu'elle voudra bien agir énergiquement pour empêcher le mal avant qu'il soit impossible de le faire.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) NERCÈS.

No. 19.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 8, 1880.)

(No. 1197.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, December* 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a translation of an article from the "Tardjimani Hakikat," on the subject of the Cyprus Convention, which, there is good reason to believe, has been inspired by the Palace.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 19.

Extract from the "Tardjimani Hakikat" of December 30, 1879.

(Traduction.)

LA question du Traité concernant l'Ile de Chypre est une de celles qui occupent le plus les esprits en l'Angleterre.

Il est notoire que l'Angleterre ayant en vertu du susdit Traité assumé un devoir considérable, n'a pas su dûment le remplir, et que quant à ce procédé qu'elle avait dernièrement employé pour atteindre ce but, cela n'avait eu d'autre résultat que celui de provoquer l'ébahissement général. En attendant l'impression du public, lors de la conclusion du susdit Traité, était que, vu l'impuissance présumée de la Sublime Porte de faire quoi que ce soit sans appui, le susdit Traité avait été conclu dans le but que l'Angleterre aidât cette dernière à faire un emprunt qui servirait à l'exécution des réformes requises. Qu'elle lui faciliterait les moyens de garantir ses créanciers et qu'enfin son existence future serait assurée sous les auspices de l'Angleterre. Or, qu'est-il arrivé? Dans un court espace de temps les créanciers du Gouvernement ont été, en principe, garantis; le moyen de subsister sans emprunt a été trouvé, le Ministère des Finances est rentré dans sa voie normale, et la possibilité de la réforme fut mise en relief.

En attendant l'Angleterre non-seulement s'est-elle abstenue de donner aucune assistance matérielle ou morale pour la réalisation de tous ces succès, mais tout au contraire elle s'est livrée à des procédés pouvant, jusqu'à un certain point, être considérés comme une opposition à ces succès, et lorsque la Sublime Porte a réussi malgre cette opposition, la question de l'assistance que l'on croyait être la base du Traité concernant Chypre, étant ainsi écartée, l'opinion publique en Angleterre est arrivée à considérer le Traité en question comme inutile, et ses clauses comme irréalisables, et même un désir d'annuler le Traité a commencé à se faire jour. L'annulation du Traité en question et la rétrocession de l'île à la Turquie, vu l'état actuel des choses, est une transaction qui sourit naturellement à l'esprit public Ottoman, car tout homme de sens pense avec raison qu'il est inutile de céder une possession aussi considérable que l'Ile de Chypre, lorsque notre amie et alliée, en faveur de qui nous avons fait ce sacrifice, au lieu de nous aider, elle ne fait que nous menacer. Cependant nous aurions sincèrement désiré que les Ministres de l'Angleterre, notre amie et alliée, n'eussent pas mis sur un pied pareil le Traité en question par des procédés étrangers qui n'ont fait que causer de l'étonnement dans le monde politique; mais que tout au contraire ils eussent donné un coup de main à la Sublime Porte sous le rapport de la politique, des finances, et des réformes, de manière à assurer le salut de l'Empire Ottoman dans une plus grande mesure et avec la facilité et la célérité requises.

Avec tout cela, si au milieu de l'état général de la politique, dont chaque coin offre un sujet d'étonnement, on venait encore à constater que l'Angleterre, tout en disant qu'elle veut exécuter les obligations du Traité, se dédit ensuite et recule, cela porterait un comble l'étonnement général. C'est pourquoi il nous tarde, comme à tout le monde, de voir si l'affaire arrivera ou non à ce point.

No. 20.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1880.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 1197 of the 26th ultimo, and in reply have to state that I approve the representation made by you to the Porte on the subject of the unsatisfactory state of the district of Bayazid, copy of which was inclosed in your Excellency's above-named despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 21.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 26 of the 20th November last, forwarding copies of despatches from Captains Cooper and Stewart and Lieutenant Kitchener.

I note with satisfaction the efforts of these officers to procure the redress of the grievances which come before them.

Captain Stewart's action as regards the Kaïmakams of Ak Serai and Bor, reported in his despatch No. 2 of the 15th October, has my approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 22.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Trotter.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1880.

I SHALL be obliged if you will offer to Captain Clayton my thanks for the interesting paper of observations upon the reforms required in Asiatic Turkey, which is inclosed in his despatch to you No. 26, Political, of the 29th November last, and of which I have received a copy through Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 22*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, January* 8, 1880.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 1111 of the 21st ultimo, I have to state that Her Majesty's Government approve the representation made by you to the Porte on the subject of the sufferings of the Christian population in the Vilayet of Van, a copy of which was inclosed in your Excellency's above-named despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 23.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 12, 1880.)

(No. 20. Political.)
My Lord, *Damascus, December* 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, respecting a disturbance near Kuneitrah, Hauran, between Druses and Arabs, and the amicable settlement thereof.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Damascus, December* 15, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that a few days ago a disturbance occurred in the Kaïmakamlik of Kuneitrah, Mutessariflik of the Hauran, between some Druses of the village of Mejdel Shems, on the south-east slopes of Mount Hermon, and the neighbouring sedentary Arab tribe of El Fudl, arising out of injury done to growing crops by straying cattle, and resulted in four Arabs and two Druses being killed. The following day five Druses of Mejdel, proceeding homewards from the Jebel Druse Hauran in ignorance of the above conflict, were killed by the Arabs, resulting in preparations being made by the Druses of Mejdel to attack the tribe. Fifty soldiers having been sent to the Druse village by the Kaïmakam of Kuneitrah, met near the village two Druse shepherds, one of whom firing a shot, with what object is not very clear, was killed by the soldiers, the other being wounded. The soldiers then retired before the menacing attitude of the Druse villagers.

The Druses of Mejdel having failed to enlist the active sympathies of their co-religionists about Hermon, have availed of the desire of the Arab Sheikhs to arrange the matter amicably, and peace has been made between the two parties, with the assistance of the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 24.

Acting Vice-Consul Marengo to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 14, 1880.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord *Trébizonde, le* 21 *Décembre*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Seigneurie qu'il y a environ une vingtaine de jours le bruit avait couru ici que les Arméniens Catholiques d'Artwin demandaient à emigrer en Turquie, et qu'ils avaient adressée au Gouvernement Impérial une requête demandant un territoire et les facilités pour passer en Turquie. Cette rumeur ayant pris une certaine consistance, je voulus m'informer des raisons qui auraient poussé cette population à vouloir émigrer.

Il y a quelques jours arriva ici un habitant d'Artwin digne de confiance, et parti intéressé dans cette question, qui m'a fourni tous les renseignements désirés.

Il paraîtrait qu'une partie des Arméniens Catholiques ayant pour chef un certain Poutchinian, n'ont pas voulu se naturaliser sujets Russes, et ont conservé leur nationalité Ottomane. Un autre parti naturalisé sujets Russes, ayant pour chef un certain Piloyan, lequel Piloyan avait eu gain de cause dans une affaire d'un immeuble contesté par Poutchinian, s'étaient irrités les uns contre les autres, et en étaient même venus aux mains et aux armes, et une véritable bataille aurait eu lieu si l'autorité Russe n'était pas intervenue. Poutchinian et son parti n'ayant aucune autorité pour faire valoir leurs droits, adressèrent alors une requête au Gouvernement Impérial, demandant la nomination d'un Consul Ottoman à Artwin pour protéger leurs intérêts. Jusqu'aujourd'hui aucune réponse n'est venue confirmer la nomination d'un Consul à Artwin, qui est cependant d'une grande nécessité pour la tranquilité des sujets Ottomans résidant dans cette province.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) H. MARENGO.

No. 25.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 4, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, on the subject of an inquiry to be instituted at Diarbekir, into the proceedings of Abedin Pasha, &c.

I would venture to call your Lordship's special attention to the paragraphs in Mr. Consul Henderson's despatch about the untrustworthiness of statements made by the "Times" correspondent at Aintab.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 25.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Aleppo, December* 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 9th instant, and in reply I have to state that Saïd Pasha has been informed by the Porte that an inquiry is to be instituted forthwith at Diarbekir into the proceedings of Abedin Pasha in exiling these men, and that pending the result of this inquiry they are to be detained here.

It is probable that Baker Pasha will inquire into this matter, but I gather that both he and Saïd Pasha believe these men to have been harshly treated.

With reference to the postcript of your Excellency's despatch, I would inform your Excellency that little reliance is to be placed on the statements of the "Times" correspondent at Aintab (an American Missionary).

The letters are full of inaccuracies, and their publication has done an immense deal of harm to the American missions in this district. I am informed that the editor of the "Times" has refused to publish letters from respectable and well-informed sources refuting many of Mr. Trowbridge's statements regarding so-called outrages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 26.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 5, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship No. 1043, Confidential, of the 28th November last, transmitting a copy of a letter from the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople, complaining of the manner in which the French and Italian Consuls at Aleppo have favoured the conversion to Roman Catholicism of certain Armenians, I have now the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Aleppo, December* 24, 1879.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch I have the honour to state, for your Excellency's information, that the Jesuits and Roman Catholic priesthood throughout the vilayet generally have for some time past been most active and persistent in their attempts to convert the Armenians to Roman Catholicism, and all the influence of France is being used, sometimes not very scrupulously, to support their propaganda.

The Patriarch, in his letter to your Excellency, makes special mention of the case of the village of Ghuia as an example, and certainly the animus and violence displayed by my French colleague against the Armenians of this village, who have refused to accept the Papal dogmas, scarcely becomes the Representative of a Power like France.

Franciscan monks were sent to this village to convert the Armenians, but little progress was made, as the villagers were slow of conversion and preferred their ancient faith. An Armenian priest who owed 200*l.* to the Patriarch at Aleppo was induced by promises of French protection to become a proselyte, and eventually this priest and the

monks succeeded in making some thirty converts, some by promises of French protection and others by less creditable means.

The Armenians were naturally very much annoyed at the behaviour of the priests, but the Kaïmakam behaved well and maintained tranquillity with admirable tact, but the priests were unsatisfied with this measure of success, and wished the Kaïmakam to use his influence to procure converts for them, and on his refusal false charges were made against him, and by the influence of the French Consul he was recalled to Aleppo. The inquiry into his conduct proved his entire innocence of the charges preferred against him, and the Acting Governor-General very properly reinstated him. But the French Consul behaved in the most violent manner, and Said Pasha, without going into the details of the matter, sacrificed the man to the violence of M. Destrées by transferring him elsewhere.

The triumph of French violence at Aleppo influenced the zeal of the converts, and their conduct became so offensive and insulting that a conflict ultimately ensued, in which fourteen persons were wounded, the armed escort of the Franciscan monks having commenced the fray.

Sheikh Hana, an Armenian Notable known for his staunch adherence to his own creed, has given special offence to the French party, and it appears he has been singled out as a fit victim for persecution. Every effort is being made by M. Destrées to crush this man as he did the Kaïmakam, and it appears that there is every prospect of his succeeding, as I hear he is going to appear in person against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

P.S.—I have just learnt that a paid French Vice-Consul has been appointed at Marash with the avowed object of diminishing English influence with the Armenian and Mussulman population.

P. H.

No. 27.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 22. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an interesting private letter from Lieutenant Chermside. What he writes about a part of the Arab race having "visions of an Arab Empire under the Sheriff of Mecca" tallies with information that I have received from other sources, and is worthy of attention.

I regret to say that Said Pasha informs me privately that he has tendered his resignation as Vali of Aleppo, and has asked to be transferred to another post. He has taken this step ostensibly on the ground of the state of his health, but I have reason to believe that he found it impossible to govern the province with the obstacles thrown in his way from Constantinople, and with the corrupt and incapable men with whom he is surrounded, and who are supported at head-quarters. It is satisfactory to find that as soon as he was made acquainted with the misconduct of Hikmet Bey, to whose misdeeds Lieutenant Chermside refers in his letters, he peremptorily dismissed him from his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. A. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 27.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Dear Sir Henry Layard, *Aleppo, December 24, 1879.*

I WAS, as I informed you, very sorry to recognize that it was too late to undertake this season the expedition among the Arabs Lord Salisbury kindly consented to. When I first wrote about it I hoped Zeitoun matters would be settled much earlier. Now that the nomad Arabs have gone south, apart from the question of public money a voyage to see them would entail, and which could scarcely be warranted by any probable results, it would not be such an advantageous time to visit them. The feeling against the Turkish Government among the Arabs may, I believe, be divided into two sorts:

(1) that of the sedentary Arabs, and which is principally, if not merely, disaffection similar to that now generally prevalent among the peasantry of Asiatic [? Turkey]; (2) that of the nomad Arabs, who, owing as they do at present but a very shadowy allegiance to the Padishah, have distinct political aspirations and visions of an Arab Empire under the Sheriff of Mecca.

The sedentary Arabs may be divided into three main groups, the Hodedin and Mowali to the south of Aleppo, the former principally near the banks of the Orontes near Hama, the latter in the neighbourhood of the same river near Homs; the third group being the Gers, to the north-east of Aleppo, and between that city and Urfa. The nomads, on their arrival in the northern pastures in the spring, become neighbours of the sedentary tribes, who sell their grain, and act as a sort of link between them and civilization. The settlers are actually protected by certain tribes of the nomads against others, and are on good terms with them, looking to them for protection, and paying tribute (Khova, *lit.* brotherhood); they are therefore a considerably less important factor in the question.

The two principal influential tribes, or rather aggregates of tribes, of the nomads are the Anisi, or Anazeh, and the Shamals. The former always remain, except when engaged in raiding, to the west of the Euphrates, and are very numerous. They appear to be divided into about seventy tribes; it is the Anazehs who come up in spring to the Sandjak of Lor, where at times there must be upwards of 400,000 or 500,000 of them, and it is these Arabs who, in conjunction with the secret societies already mentioned in other letters, are likely to prove a cause of present or future trouble. They pay no regular taxes; at the present time the camel tax or tribute can only in rare cases be enforced by the Government. Now that the rains have come the Anazeh tribes have moved their encampments south to the great plain of Hamad, a plain thirty days' journey in width, with no water but pools of rain-water; the nearest point to this, Jub, is some twelve days' journey, but the camps stretch right away to Jub-al-Shomar (thirty days from Damascus), where Ibu Raschid reigns in state, and away beyond that to the Nejd, Saoud-ibu-Saoud, another Wahabi, seems pretty independent. The second great group of nomads, the Shamals, remain always east of the Euphrates, and of course you know of their bitter traditional feud with the Anazehs; the Gep and the sedentary Arabs of the Urfa district are those they principally come in contact with. The proceedings of the Shamals at present are not, as far as I can learn, of any importance, and the troubles near Urfa this last season were, I believe, merely normal ones of no special significance. The Shamals, too, are now gone south, and though still in Mesopotamia, must all be south of the Kaboor River.

The best time, of course, to work up the question would be when nomads and settlers are in the same neighbourhood, and when both are also in relation with the Turkish authorities.

I gave your message to Said Pasha. I fear he will not stay here very long; it is a very difficult Government, and he is too honest and too straightforward for the post, and, I fear, too easily influenced and ready to believe all that is told him to succeed. He is unfortunately much under the influence of his Secretary, Hikmet Bey, a clever young scamp, once editor of the "Bassiret." He was one of Mazhar's disreputable surrounding, and though I did not then know he was signalized by any special qualities, his habits of drinking and abominable vices render him anything but a fit person to influence Said. At Zeitoun I cautioned him strongly, and kept him in hand, but since then, when I left the Commission, I have heard all sorts of unpleasant news. The appointments of Elbistan Kaïmakam (bad), of Zeitoun Kaïmakam (drunkard), of the Marash Medjliss, Kiliss Medjliss—are all much ascribed to his influence, and have given rise to serious remonstrances, and the murmurs and whispers against Said are gathering strength.

Baker asked me about it yesterday, and I confirmed all he had heard; he is opening the subject through his [?] Said, and is going to speak himself.

I told him before leaving I shall certainly speak to Said as I am such a personal friend. Said asked me if I would read him my Reports. I did so with the exception of a few paragraphs. He is very much pleased with the views expressed in my General Report on the Reform Commissioners, which I read, with the exception of a few lines, *i.e.*, that about the Christians, and he desired me to write and tell you he wished fully to endorse it.

Baker Pasha has been here some days. He seems to have formed his ideas wonderfully quickly and correctly, and his suggestions are wonderfully practical, and take account of the financial and other difficulties of the position. The introduction of compulsory instead of voluntary enlistment for the gendarmerie is a measure that promises

good results, and need certainly add nothing to the expenditure, possibly the reverse. Like almost all British officers who have seen the costly and abortive attempts at public works in Turkey, he is against the late system, good as it was in theory. The Government failing to offer sufficient inducements to really good engineers, the needy among Poles and Germans, &c., who have in the past been attracted has only resulted in a vast expenditure without result [*sic*]. His idea is to replace them by Turkish staff officers, who must first pass an examination in road-making, &c. With the exception of the latter clause, it is what I have been trying for months, and Saïd long since applied for the officers, though fruitlessly.

To attempt a rough inexpensive survey of each vilayet by the same means—more for a "cadastre" and financial reasons, and to arrive at the area under cultivation, forest area, water supply, &c., than for military information—is a project I have been anxious to see attempted.

Baker Pasha, however, and probably very rightly, thinks this could not be efficiently undertaken by the Turks, and should only succeed, by slow degrees, the public works project should the latter be successful. He is much impressed with the advisability of modifying the restrictions that at present hamper a Governor-General. So many of these are corrupt, that he would not put a premium on their dishonest action by placing in their hands all the patronage of their province. The appointments, however, should, he thinks, be subjected to the Vali's approval.

Again, all the communications to the different Heads of Departments at Constantinople should, he thinks, be forwarded through the Governor-General, who might append any remarks of his own.

These suggestions seem eminently practical, and not open to grave objections except as entailing increase of work on the Vali; Musteshars and Mouavins to the latter would become absolutely requisite. Valis at present are principally employed in doing the work for the head-quarter sandjak; that in the others is performed by the Mutessarif, instead of being occupied with affairs relating to the whole province, and having ample leisure to travel.

I take it that the objection of Valis themselves to a Mouavin is the removal from their immediate control of business that often proves very lucrative; such, at least, it is asserted, was the real ground of Djevdet Pasha's objection when Vali. Baker Pasha has also taken up the very important question of statistics. The existing Department for this is very inefficient, and their Reports are based on information collected by the subordinates, who travel occasionally. He wishes to render the Mukhtars and Headmen of communities liable to furnish correct statistics of population, and to oblige them to register births and deaths, the existing staff to be retained, but as an inspecting one, and one that would check the accuracy of returns furnished.

He would also oblige the Redif officers to furnish statistics as to their recruiting districts. At present the information in the hands of the authorities as to population is most vague and avowedly only approximative within 20 per cent., and it is a question of a very vital importance to Turkey.

Baker proposes forwarding a Report for each vilayet, and then a general one. He has a cumbrously numerous following. Suleiman Pasha is, I imagine, rather in the light of a spy on his actions. I have learnt confidentially—and I believe Baker is not aware of this—that he corresponds direct in cypher with the Palace. He received a personal message, *en clair*, from the Sultan of thanks (I am told) for some information. However, as Baker has no executive, and has such great tact, it will be very hard, if no difficulties or counter-orders prevent his visiting all the country he wishes, to hinder him in collecting the information he wants.

I have spoken in a previous despatch of the fostering of anti-English sentiments of distrust and suspicion by a certain class of Turks.

Suleiman is the guest of Hussein Pasha, a noted intriguer and hater of English influence, and there is little doubt he will be urged to misrepresent to the Sultan English action in this part of the country; in fact, of course if it is the cue that Suleiman has taken to work on the Sultan's fears and misrepresent matters throughout, his presence may be productive of a great deal of mischief.

Finance is in terrible difficulties here, and the Government have, as at Adana, failed to get the loan of 50,000 liras asked for. Grain is very dear, almost at famine prices. I know that the Turks say that with their bad functionaries the country is unready for five years' appointments, but now they are so hard up, their reckless system of pitchforking functionaries from one end of the Empire to the other, just to suit the convenience of place-seekers at Constantinople, is almost criminal; two years seems the outside limit that practical experience ever brings one in contact with of tenure of office, but two, four, eight months to a year is the usual thing.

Lately I have come across functionaries, not of very high rank, from Erzeroum, Bolu, beyond Monastir, from Albania, Thessaly, and so on. Even a Kaïmakam's expenses will average 10 piastres for every 3 miles; the province he comes to bears the expense. It is thus costly to the country, the Government, and the officials themselves, who are always out of pocket.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

P.S.—On hearing of his iniquities, Saïd at once peremptorily dismissed Hikmet Bey.

H. C.

No. 28.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 7, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No 1445 of the 4th December last, I had caused, previously to receiving your Lordship's instructions, an investigation to be made, in order to ascertain the fate of certain Christian emigrants from Soukhoum Kaleh, in the district of Amasia, who are reported to have been sold, and removed from Amasia to Stamboul.

The result of my inquiries has, I regret to say, been unsatisfactory, Mr. Dragoman Marinich informing me that he has been unable to trace the persons in question, or learn anything about them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 29.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 18.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 7, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum has addressed to Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan, respecting the state of the Sandjak of Baiburt. I intend to bring his statements to the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 29.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

Sir, *Erzeroum, December 17, 1879.*

FROM several sources I have received information that the state of the Christian population in the districts of Alashgerd, Diadin, and Bayazid is most pitiable. The inhabitants of Kara-Kilissa have forwarded me a petition; of which I inclose you a literal translation, and from which you will gather some idea of their lamentable condition. Although I believe the statements to be slightly exaggerated, yet I have no doubt the people are reduced to great extremity, and are already beginning to feel the want of bread.

You will observe that the people state that wheat is given to the Turks, and not to the Christians. The Bishop of Utchkilisa having written to the Bishop here to the same effect, I am led to believe that there is some truth in the assertion, and also in the impression which I had received of an inclination on the part of the Mutessarif to act unjustly to this portion of the population.

I informed the Vali immediately of the state of things, and asked him what steps he intended to take. He said that the Mutessarif of Bayazid had made application to him for 30,000 kils of wheat, of which 25,000 kils were for consumption, and the remainder

for the spring sowing. This amount is equivalent to about 1,760 Erzeroum somars. The Mutessarif also reported that in the neighbourhood of Bulanik, Manashgerd and Adeljeras there was wheat in excess of the requirements. These places being in the Van Vilayet, the Vali wrote to the Governor-General of Van for permission to buy, but the want of wheat being equally great in that province, the Governor replied in the negative. In the face of this refusal, the Vali has written to Constantinople to press the demand, and has also applied to the Persian Consul to know if they will sell in Persia. The Persian Consul has replied in the affirmative.

I should hardly suppose the Porte would sanction the first request, and I am doubtful of the success of the other experiment, for I have received information that there is not much wheat to be obtained on the Persian frontier. Failing these, the Vali proposes to fall back on the Baiburt district, where the harvest has been excellent, using the Persian caravan transport, at this time of year comparatively idle, for its conveyance. This being the most costly mode of procedure is reserved to the last. I have serious doubts of the Mutessarif's demands being satisfied, even from this source, for (*vide* my next despatch) the wheat there is being sold to a company of merchants who, notwithstanding the order forbidding exportation from the Vilayet, continue to export regularly to Trebizond. Even if this were not the case, the district could not supply the large amount now asked for.

The criminal cases against the Beys of Keghi have, with one exception, been brought to a conclusion in the lower Court. Ismail Bey, Hadji Sadyk, and Hassan have been sentenced each to banishment for a term of one year. Owing to illness, the case of Ali Bey has not yet been heard. Thus the trial which has occupied so much time, and which has only now been concluded by pressure from Constantinople, has ended somewhat ridiculously. The Beys, encouraged by their success, and hopeful of still better things from a higher Court, have now appealed to the Istanefl, and I believe intend to send a petition to you. It is a melancholy failure of justice, and I have said as much to the Sub-Commissioners who were left here to conduct these cases, but of course there is no appeal to be made against the decision of the Court. It is only fair to the Christian members to say that they did their utmost to procure longer sentences, but, as usual, their judgment has been overruled by the Moslems, who have probably accepted a portion of the large sums which I have reason to know were offered by the Beys to procure acquittal.

The Kaimakam of Keghi is now in Erzeroum, but has not yet been examined. He has expressed to me his perfect ability to answer to any charges which may be brought against him. The Russian Consul has offered to join me in any representations I may make to the Vali on the propriety of retaining him in office, and a petition has been addressed to the Armenian Bishop for the same purpose. You may be sure I shall not cease in my endeavours to obtain for him fair play.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 29.

Petition from Kara-Kilissa.

Kara-Kilissa, December 2, 1879.

Sir,

HOW much were we pleased when you had the goodness to visit our country. In that time we forget immediately all our afflictions, especially when your Excellency encouraged us with the hope that we should be given wheat.

Beneficent Sir, we have never received any assistance, not even one grain of wheat. The Government has given wheat only to the Turks and the Turkish refugees. Our cry has never been listened to, and as the confused cry of a child, so ours is at this moment diminishing. Oh, Sir, you are our saviour, chief, and father; we have but your Excellency who will protect us; you are our visitor and our strong wall. We have no wheat, no food, no clothes, and we are naked, and the existing means of living is scarcely sufficient at the present bad time, a time full of oppression, famine, and death; a circle from the interior of which all the inhabitants must flee and escape from country to country. In short, if you visit our country once more you will see the famine, the illness, the naked men, and the falling down of the cattle, and will hear the cry of the widowers, the cry of children, and the bitter one of famished men.

Therefore, we give to your Excellency with tearful eyes this petition, begging from your Excellency assistance as quickly as possible.

Your obedient servants.
(Signed) The People of Kara-Kilissa.

Inclosure 3 in No. 29.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

Erzeroum, December 19, 1879.

Sir,

I WISH to bring to your notice the very unsatisfactory condition of the Sandjak of Baiburt.

Although I cannot absolutely vouch for the accuracy of the information I am about to give you, it nevertheless proceeds from so authentic a source that I believe it may be accepted as a very close approximation to the truth.

The Tribunals at Baiburt are two, viz., the Idaré, or administrative Medjliss, and the Bidayet Medjliss.

The former is presided over by Suleiman Pasha, the Mutessarif, a man whose only good quality appears to be that he has not the reputation of taking bribes. Utterly ignorant of administration, he is in no way fitted for the position he holds. The members, including the Writer and the Keeper of the Archives, consist of four Moslems and three Christians. Of the Turkish members, two are but partially educated, know very little about the existing state of the laws, and are thoroughly dishonest. The Writer is altogether a bad character, and the Keeper of the Archives a stupid, ignorant, and uneducated drunkard. The Christian members are not corrupt, but are ignorant and uneducated.

The Bidayet Medjliss has two Presidents, one for the trial of civil offences, the other for those of a criminal nature. The Civil President is a tolerably able man, but corrupt. The Criminal President is also corrupt, and is, moreover, useless and ignorant. There are four members, two Turkish and two Christian. Of the two Christian, one takes bribes, and both are illiterate; of the two Turkish, one is fanatic and ignorant, the other an uneducated nonentity, who sits in the Court only to make up the required number. At this moment there is no Procureur, that official having lately resigned his appointment.

With such Courts of Justice, and with only one Writer (for from the lowness of the salary no other can be obtained), it is not to be wondered at that judicial affairs march but slowly, so slowly, in fact, that there are at this moment 200 prisoners awaiting trial in the prison at Baiburt.

A short time ago the vilayet demanded from the sandjak £T. 6,000. The money is being obtained from the sale of wheat, of which there is plenty, the harvest in this district having been excellent. The wheat is being sold wholesale, by villages, to a company of merchants who buy for exportation. Notwithstanding the prohibition lately promulgated forbidding that wheat should be sold out of the vilayet, this exportation is regularly carried on by bribing the zaptiehs, who are only too glad to get any means of obtaining a livelihood.

Brigandage is rife throughout the country, no week passing without cases of robbery or assassination.

The most active of these brigands are Lazis from the mountainous district of Rizeh, but many Turks from the neighbourhood of Ispir are engaged in this profitable trade, which is carried on almost unchecked. The robberies are not committed after the desultory fashion of ordinary highwaymen, but are conducted by large and well-organized bands.

As an instance of their high training, I may mention that in a case of recent occurrence the main body of the party, taking up a commanding position, fired several volleys on a village, their leader using the words of command to be found in the Turkish platoon exercise, while the remainder sacked the particular house which was the object of the raid. The weapon in their possession was the Martini rifle, of which my informant assured me 3,000 could be found in the Caza of Ispir alone, with a plentiful supply of ammunition. To confront these formidable robbers there are in the Caza of Baiburt forty-five zaptiehs, of whom twenty are mounted.

Having only just received this information, I have not yet had an opportunity of bringing these matters to the notice of the Vali, but I shall do so at once, and shall suggest that some immediate steps be taken to remedy the existing state of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 30.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 35.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 7, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1155 of the 24th ultimo, in which I reported to your Lordship that I had demanded the dismissal of Husni Effendi, Defterdar of Angora, for his conduct towards Mr. Binns and Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral, in which he states that, in consequence of the behaviour of the Defterdar, his relations with that official have become most unsatisfactory.

I shall still insist upon the dismissal of that functionary, and hope to obtain it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 30.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)

Sir, *Angora, December* 20, 1879.

I BEG to inform your Excellency that up to the present no instructions have reached the Governor-General of this province, either by post or telegraph, with regard to our complaints of Husni Effendi's conduct towards British subjects here, and the Governor-General persistently declines to take any official action in the matter. The situation being quite an intolerable one, all financial business having come to a standstill pending the arrival of these instructions, some mutual friends interfered with a view of effecting a reconciliation. I induced my fellow-countryman, Mr. Binns, to make a formal statement that he would be satisfied with a note from the Defterdar withdrawing the offensive expressions used towards him, and promising for the future that more courteous relations would be maintained. I had been assured on Husni Effendi's behalf that such a proposition would be accepted if tendered, but on advising him that my mediation had been successful, I was curtly informed, greatly to my surprise, that the Defterdar had changed his mind, and would not make any apology in that or any other form.

Private telegrams from Constantinople advised us that orders for the Defterdar's dismissal had been issued by the Porte, the news giving the liveliest satisfaction, not only to the English and foreign residents, but to the community generally. On making inquiries at the Serail to-day, however, I find that no official confirmation of it has yet arrived; indeed, the accuracy of the news is flatly denied by the official affected. At the urgent request of my fellow-countrymen here, I accordingly sent your Excellency the following telegram, which I now confirm:—

"*Angora, December* 25, 1879.

"Private telegrams advise your Excellency's efforts having resulted in dismissal of Husni Effendi. British subjects and all having relations with Government beg me to thank you for prompt efforts in relieving them from intolerable misgovernment, and desire official confirmation of news."

Anxiously awaiting your reply to the above, I have, &c.

(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 31.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 18.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Lieutenant Chermside respecting affairs in Zeitoun and the Reform Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 31.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Aleppo, December* 24, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, the following further information on Zeitoun affairs:—

As regards the point mentioned in my despatch of the 26th November as to my being prepared with proofs in refutation of the assertion that the Zeitounli's allegation of the sufferings they had endured at the hands of their Moslem neighbours was untrue, I forward to your Excellency the French translation of a document prepared for presentation to the Commission, giving, with names and particulars, details as to eighteen murders and seventy-one highway and other robberies. This document was not presented, as there appeared to be no occasion for so doing. It may prove useful for reference.

I urged the inhabitants who were accused of still being in possession of herds and flocks plundered from Moslems to make good their assertion as to all taken, and more having been subsequently taken from them, by making a census of their cattle and goats; this was not done in a very satisfactory manner, but the paragraph in which they state the former number and the present approximate number of goats, inviting the Government to verify their statement, may, I think, be deemed conclusive evidence of matters being as represented.

As regards questions of the actual solution of which I was unaware:—

1. The "aghnam," or sheep and goat tax, could not be altered by the Commission, the proposed change being a radical measure affecting the whole Empire.

2. The tax on the mine was reduced from 20 to 5 per cent.

3. The Christian Mouavin, or Assistant Kaïmakam, has never taken up his duties, though nominated five months ago. This is owing to delay at Constantinople in confirming his appointment.

4. The Kaïmakam has been replaced. The late Kaïmakam was thought very highly of by the Consul. Sabri Effendi, the new Kaïmakam, has the reputation of being an habitual drunkard, and does not bear a good character. Had I been at Marash I should have opposed his nomination; and I feel sure that Said Pasha, in appointing him, cannot have been aware of his character and antecedents.

As regards the question of emigration, the Catholicos of Sis is in treaty with Osman Pasha to see if a compromise can be arranged, and on receipt of a pecuniary compensation the Pasha will waive his claim to parts of the plain of Geben. As the "hodjet," or title, given, it is asserted, through bribery of the Cadi, was obtained years ago, to dispute his title now might only produce costly and fruitless litigation.

As regards the Elbistan and Andarin Cazas, Said Pasha has dispatched a man, Mustafa Effendi, on a confidential mission, to examine and to report to him. As this functionary is alone, I am not very hopeful of a good result. Arslan Bey, the Andarin Kaïmakam, has, I am told on good authority, recently reported that the caza is in a satisfactory state, and that the charges against the notables are without foundation. I regret to state that, after the Zeitoun prisoners had been released, a party of four or five returning home was attacked on the Akhir Dagh, not very far from Marash; one man was murdered, and another severely wounded. The assassins are said to be Moslems of Beshen, and on the same day they had already attacked a caravan of Zeitounli, and stolen either four or five mules. Said Pasha has given most stringent orders for their capture.

Munih Bey, the new Marash Mutessarif, is said to be a well-meaning man. He appears to be weak, and incapable of administering efficiently such a turbulent district. I had unfortunately but scant opportunity of observing his administration and capability. The tardy solution of the Zeitoun question seems likely to be productive of many of the results the Consul and I apprehended. The Armenians have succeeded in making a political question of it. The name of the educated Armenian who resided for some time in Zeitoun during the past summer, and whom I believe to be a political agitator, is Markar, but he passed under the name of Hamparzun. He prepared a petition of seven points (one being a fixed tribute). This petition was not presented.

Many of the Moslems are undoubtedly dissatisfied, not only at the actual result, but at England, as they say, having identified herself generally with the complaints and grievances of the Christians, and leaving the Moslems out in the cold. The Turkish authorities have only their own ill-judged action to thank for any manifestation of British influence in the matter; personally, I can assure your Excellency that I have invariably kept completely in the background, and any action I have had to take has been forced

upon me. The instance of refugees that I assisted in establishing produced a very good effect; when, subsequently, your Excellency granted me a sum of money, I hoped that it might produce a more widespread feeling. The implements and oxen I intended alone to provide would have enabled aid to be widely distributed; and the fact of my presence and appeals to apathetic local Governors to fulfil their share of the work would, I calculated, evince the interest England felt in the condition of the Moslems. Illness prevented my carrying out the work I had commenced, but I have no doubt that the Consul, who has consented to take over the funds, will put them to the best use possible. British interference in Asia Minor is undoubtedly most unpalatable to a section, and that principally the highest, of the governing classes, and is regarded by them with distrust, suspicion, and dislike, and they will lose no opportunity of discrediting it and misrepresenting its action. Looking at the avowed Russian proclivities of many of the Governors, for personal reasons it is not to be wondered at if they do all in their power to alienate the Moslems from sympathy with England and to foster among them a friendly feeling towards Russia. England is to be made to bear the odium produced by the present unsatisfactory state of affairs and the failure of the introduction of improvements due to their own jealousy, want of good faith, and shortcomings. The presence of her numerous Agents, combined with the futility of their labours to benefit the population to any great extent, owing to Turkish apathy and obstruction, lends colour to the reports assiduously circulated that she is merely examining the country, &c., with a view to her own interests.

Any Power attempting a similar task would be placed by the Turks in the same position, the old inveterate hostility to the "implantation des intérêts étrangers," into which expression the late Reshid Pasha epitomized his reasons for opposing the Suez Canal, exists among the ruling classes, and these still possess some means of promoting the slow growth of impressions and convictions among the masses that take the place of public opinion. A public opinion, however, stronger and more bitter than many of those bound by interest to the ruling official clique have realized, is growing up; the cleverer Governors are well aware of this. This public opinion is one of great hostility to Constantinople and all the existing Administration. That there is a limit to human patience and endurance is forcing itself even on the illiterate Moslem, and the influence of the stranger is looked to, many, very many, looking to England, but the more advanced beyond—if not England, France, any Power, even Russia.

If Russia takes advantage of this sentiment she can probably either force the hand of England, or, in ten years' time, have the whole country Russian in sympathy. At present she is still inactive, though just as the treatment of the Turkish Contingent by England struck a deep root of friendship and brotherhood for that Power twenty-five years ago, so now the treatment of her Turkish prisoners by Russia has had a marked effect.

As long as any one Power alone is acting, obstruction and opposition, secret or as avowed as it dares, will be shown to that Power by Constantinople; if England and Russia be both at work, of course the Bosphorus will try to trim and to play off one against the other, but personal reasons and the traditional workings of Russian policy and diplomacy are far more likely to enlist the Pashas on Russia's side than on that of England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

P.S.—I append a French document, a copy of a résumé of the proceedings of the Commission, communicated by Nourrian Effendi to the Consul and myself.

H. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, December 24, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the following information as to certain points in my despatch of the 29th November which I was not then in a position to furnish:—

1. The billeting of zaptiehs is receiving Said Pasha's attention in the new gendarmerie organization. It appears to be a matter for great regret that the new scheme elaborated at Constantinople for the whole Empire is not being applied. The changes here amount

to little more than a weeding out of some of the older zaptiehs and the admission of a proportion of Christians. The local forces of gendarmes are summoned to Aleppo, the selection made, and the men chosen return to their own districts, a system the evils of which the new scheme especially aims at abolishing.

2. His Excellency is very active in attempting to settle the refugees. At Aintab and Kiliss there were sums in each case amounting to 40,000 piastres that had been subscribed by the population. Until the receipt of your Excellency's telegram on the subject to-day I had not drawn for the 300*l.*, as there are so many localities in the interior where the sum might be admirably applied in the hands of a British Agent, and that as I could no longer make use of it personally as I had wished, in the Marash Sandjak, I was doubtful if the money would now prove of as great utility here as elsewhere. The Consul here, however, will be able to apply it to the best purpose in the manner I have indicated to your Excellency, and I shall therefore draw and place the whole or a part of the sum in his hands.

3. His Excellency is also fully impressed with the importance of establishing the nomads, and asked some months ago for fifteen officers from Constantinople to carry out the work by actual local supervision; his request has not hitherto been complied with.

4. His Excellency is also most anxious to take action in the matter of public works. He does not believe in the advisability of the execution of main roads by the Redadiyes, thinking that their action and that of the Local Government authorities, even with the system of forced labour, would be so slow that the works now begun might, owing to political changes, be never completed; he is therefore in favour of concessions to Companies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 32.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 42.)

Constantinople, January 8, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 8 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to inclose, herewith, all the correspondence which has passed in regard to Mr. Binns' complaint against the Defterdar of Angora, which was not forwarded to your Lordship with my despatch No. 1175 of the 24th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, December 4, 1879.

(Telegraphic.)

JAMES FLETCHER BINNS, resident British merchant, having contracted with Local Government to purchase quantity grain on behalf of Constantinople banks, the Provincial Mudirey, Oomooroy Malieh Husni Effendi, endeavoured compel Mr. Binns accept quantity damaged grain, which being refused as contrary to contract, Husni Effendi proceeded to abuse Mr. Binns personally, and British Government and nation generally, in presence of the officials and natives. Sender has verified facts complained of. Beg your Excellency to take such steps as will prevent in future recurrence of such public insults to British subjects here. Details by post despatch.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, December 6, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to inform your Excellency that on Thursday last the 3rd instant I found it necessary to send you the following telegram, which I now confirm:—

"James Fletcher Binns, resident British merchant, having contracted with Local Government to purchase quantity of grain on behalf of Constantinople banks, the Provincial

Mudirey, Oomoorey Malieh Husni Effendi, endeavoured to compel Mr. Binns to accept quantity damaged grain, which being refused, as contrary to contract. Husni Effendi proceeded abuse Mr. Binns personally and British Government and nation generally, in presence of other officials and natives. Sender has verified facts as complained of; begs your Excellency to take such steps as will prevent in future the recurrence of such public insults here. Details by post despatch."

I now hand you inclosed copy of the memorandum received from Mr. Binns giving the details of the insulting conduct complained of, to the contents of which I beg to refer you.

It was with great reluctance and regret that I forwarded this complaint regarding the conduct of an official so highly placed as the Defterdar of the province, Husni Effendi; but I felt that no other course was left me. I have already had occasion to report Husni Effendi's conduct, the carelessness with which public accounts are kept, the unblushing way in which the Government is robbed of its revenue and the open and shameless manner in which bribes are catered for in the Defterdar's office. Since Husni Effendi's arrival four months ago, he has contrived to insult or offend every one with whom he has had official relations; he has treated me, personally, on more than one occasion, in the most cavalier fashion, but I forbore from making any representations on my own behalf in the hope as he became more accustomed to his duties and surroundings he would become more courteous; this, however, has not been the case, and he becomes more violent and unreasonable from day to day.

Such treatment from such an official is a very serious matter for the four or five Englishmen who are resident here, as all of us have direct relations with him, representing, as we do, various financial interests that are entrusted to us both from Europe and Constantinople, and should he persevere in his present line of conduct it will be impossible for us to transact business, and dangerous even to reside here. Besides being a dishonest and incapable official, Husni Effendi is a vulgar fanatic of the most Turkish type, his recent outbursts of abuse and violence are avowedly caused by the recent action of the British Government. Bigots of this stamp having somehow or other got firm hold of the idea that the British Government contemplates using force in order to secure reform. He thinks himself justified therefore in treating us with contemptuous insolence or loud-tongued abuse, and your Excellency can easily imagine how pernicious such an example is; the crowd of inferior employés and creatures who surround such an official are only too ready to follow the example thus shown them and improve upon it if possible. The Vali Pasha is a helpless valetudinarian and besides sympathizes too much with this fanatical tendency to grant us any efficient protection; and as it has been proved that this fierce fanatical spirit when aroused has always a tendency to end in violence and bloodshed, I feel bound to inform your Excellency when symptoms of this spirit show themselves, and would add my personal entreaty to that of my fellow countrymen that your Excellency should take such steps as may seem good to you to protect British residents here from the insults and abuses to which they have submitted hitherto without remonstrance. I may add that Husni Effendi's sole qualification for his present post are that he is a relative of the present Sheik-ul-Islam, and he is in favour with the Mallieh authorities, as he gets credit for having disposed of his year's tithes at an exorbitantly high rate. This, however, was simply because circumstances favoured the sale owing to dearth in the neighbouring provinces, and the sale was so carelessly and even dishonestly conducted that it is notorious the Government will never realize a large proportion of the amount it expects to encash on this account.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 32.

Memorandum.

THE following is a résumé of the information communicated by me in our conversation of to-day:—

I am a British subject, resident in Angora, where I am engaged in commerce as a merchant, and also act as agent and correspondent on behalf of the Société Générale de Change et Valeurs, the Crédit Lyonnais, and other banking establishments having their head offices at Constantinople.

On behalf of my principals I offered for, and became possessor of, a quantity of grain, amounting to 16,000 bushels, belonging to the Provincial Government of Angora.

Certain conditions of sale and purchase were arranged on behalf of both the contracting parties, one of those conditions being that the grain delivered to me or to my employés in the various departments and districts of the province should be in good marketable condition; and that I should have the right of rejecting any that was rotten, damaged by vermin or had sprouted. These conditions of sale were set forth in what is called a Mazbata or Protocol, which was approved and accepted by the Governor-General in Council, and forwarded as an order to the various stores and granaries from which the grain referred to was to be delivered. In fulfilment of my part of the contract, I have taken delivery of about 12,000 bushels, but felt compelled to reject three lots amounting to 32½, 170½, and 256 bushels respectively, which, being in bad condition, and, as my employés informed me, unfit either for use or sale, were not in accordance with the conditions of the purchase, and rejected solely on that account.

It being desirable to examine accounts and compare the Government entries with the statements furnished by my employés, I have called frequently on the Defterdar, or Mudirey Oomourey Malieh, as he is now called, Husni Effendi, for that purpose. He has repeatedly postponed the examination of these accounts on various frivolous pretexts; but to-day I waited on him expressly, and urged him to go into them. He began the examination very reluctantly, and on my calling his attention to the fact that 32½ bushels from Tehit were not according to contract, and had been rejected accordingly, he became very angry, flung the papers at me with great violence, exclaiming with much heat that if I did not accept this with the rest I should not have any at all. I felt naturally indignant at being treated in this fashion, and replied that in this case he had not to do with a native of Angora, but with an Englishman representing important financial interests, who would take care to resent and prevent the repetition of such insulting conduct; this remark made his rage quite ungovernable, and starting to his feet he poured out a stream of that vile abuse in which vulgar Turkish is so rich. Much of this coarse and profane tirade is quite untranslatable into English, but I may mention that "dog" and "mean cur" where the mildest of the epithets hurled at me. I was so taken by surprise at this unexpected outburst, that for some time I was rendered speechless, and could not collect myself sufficiently to make any reply. When I found words, however, I merely remarked that such language was very unbecoming in an official of his rank and position; that it would be well to consider what he was saying, to withdraw many of the epithets he had employed; and to resume the examination of the accounts. This only served to enrage him still more, and quite losing control of himself, he continued some time to heap the most abusive epithets not only on myself, personally, but on the British Government and nation, of which I have the honour of being a subject. The loud and angry voice in which this was done collected all the officers and Government employés in the neighbourhood. An excited crowd was thus gathered together, and it seemed at one time as if Husni Effendi was about to proceed from abusive language to violence.

At this juncture, however, the Hakim, or Judge of the province, and a Christian member, called Abig Effendi, interfered; the former censured Husni Effendi for his intemperate language, and suggested that some means of compromising the difference might be devised.

The Defterdar, however, would listen to nothing. During the altercation he had repeatedly ordered me out of his room, but I had persisted in remaining, in the hope of inducing him to listen to reason, but as I saw this was hopeless, and those present continuing to urge me to withdraw for a time, I did so.

In the excitement of the quarrel I had forgotten an important proof which I had brought with me; this was a formal statement, bearing the seals of the headmen of the village, that the 32½ bushels referred to were so rotten as to be unfit for use for man or beast. Recollecting this document, I returned to the Defterdar's office, and asked the Hakim, who was still present, to read the paper; this he did, but the Defterdar became angry again, asserted that the document was a forgery, and had been got up to answer a dishonest purpose, at the same time attempting to take possession of it. This I resisted, and recovered the paper, remarking that it would be a useful proof in any subsequent proceedings that might take place.

It will be seen from the foregoing that, whilst in the performance of my duty on behalf of others in the transaction of routine business, which might have easily been arranged without an angry word on either side, I have been grossly insulted personally, but the Government and nation of which I am a subject have been grossly and publicly insulted as well. I have reason to believe that the Defterdar's motive for this violent and abusive conduct was to induce me to abandon the transaction altogether, and return the grain which I have collected with so much trouble and expense during the last four

months, his object being to make the concession to a creature of his own, and also make a private profit on the transaction.

I have the honour to request that official notice should be taken of this violent and insulting conduct, and that Husni Effendi should be superseded, or at least severely censured, for his behaviour, as it is evident were such an occurrence passed over unnoticed, it is only too probable that other English merchants resident here will be treated in the same fashion, and the important British commercial interests that exist in this province, suffer in consequence. I accordingly hand you this detailed and formal account of what took place, and request you to take such official steps with regard to it as may effectually prevent the recurrence of such incidents for the future.

(Signed) JAMES F. BINNS.

Angora, December 3, 1879.

Inclosure 4 in No. 32.

Sir A. H. Layard to Vice-Consul Gatheral.

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, December* 9, 1879.

PORTE has given necessary orders with view of preventing repetition of insults to British subjects, complained of in your telegram of 4th instant.

Inclosure 5 in No. 32.

Messrs. Hanson and Co. to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, December 15, 1879.

Sir,

WE have the honour to submit to your Excellency extract copy of a letter received from our agent at Angora, Mr. James F. Binns, and rest assured that your Excellency will immediately take such steps as you may consider it necessary to vindicate the gross indignity offered to a British subject therein recounted.

We remain, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. J. HANSON AND Co.

Inclosure 6 in No. 32.

Mr. Binns to Messrs. Hanson and Co.

(Extract.) *Angora, December* 6, 1879.

A FEW days ago I went to the Defterdar to enter into accounts respecting a parcel of 16,000 kilog. of grain I bought on behalf of the Crédit Lyonnais, with the proviso of rejecting any rotten or vermin-eaten there might be. There were three lots of rotten which I refused.

The Defterdar, on my refusing the first lot (30 kilog.), threw the documents in my face, saying I should take them as well or none. You must know that he has been trying his best to make me throw up the contract for a long time, so that he might, I believe, through a creature of his own, buy and benefit by it. I told him that he must bear in mind he was not dealing with a native of Angora, but with an Englishman and a representative of several most important financial houses in Constantinople, and that he had better withdraw his statement and resume examination of account, whereupon he fired up and said, "Who are you?" and ordered me out of his room, using strong language, and bawling so loud as to collect all the officials round him, whereupon he called louder, and I told him I would not accept such treatment, that I should appeal to the Consul, when he said, "Dovlet Ezuebi kim dener," that in the sight of my Government I was not as important as a dog, and used many other abusive terms, saying at last that he had a thousand such low menials as I in his "pocket" (meaning employ); when I produced a Mazbata from his own official, asserting that the 30 kilog. were rotten, he told me I might have many such seals as the paper was sealed with in my possession, insinuating I was an impostor.

At one time I thought he was going to use violence, but just then the Nakkim stepped in and censured him.

I appealed to the Consul Gatheral, who sent a telegram to the Embassy; and I now intreat you to see Sir H. Layard and ask him to see that the man not only gets displaced, but that he apologizes to me before the very officials before whom he insulted me. All I ask is, that you be kind enough to see Sir H. Layard at the earliest opportunity, and tell him if the matter is not carried through quickly, I shall lose all the influence I have got up here, for it is already being hinted about that when I told the Defterdar I was a British subject and would not stand such treatment, he kicked me out.

After this what respect can be expected to be paid to British merchants. If this is not carried out, I might as well fly and fly as to get money; on the other hand, if I succeed, I shall be able to command greater respect than ever.

Of course I have written to all my principals: Messrs. Whittall and Co., the Crédit Lyonnais, Société Générale, and others, who will help me; but your demand at the Embassy will be all important to me.

Inclosure 7 in No. 32.

Note Verbale.

Constantinople, December 16, 1879.

HER Majesty's Ambassador has the honour to forward herewith to the Sublime Porte the translation of a complaint from Mr. Binns, a British subject at Angora, respecting the conduct towards him of Husni Effendi, the Defterdar of the province. It is with deep regret that Her Majesty's Ambassador finds himself compelled to bring to the serious notice of the Porte the misconduct of a Turkish official holding so important a post as Husni Effendi; but considering the violent and insulting language publicly used by that functionary, as described in Mr. Binns' complaint, he has no option but to demand that Husni Effendi should be at once dismissed. In case this demand be not at once complied with, Her Majesty's Ambassador will be under the necessity of referring the matter to Her Majesty's Government.

The accompanying Report from the British Vice-Consul at Angora will further show how Husni Effendi is in the habit of behaving towards that officer and British subjects, and will, Her Majesty's Ambassador feels convinced, prove to the Porte how completely in other respects Husni Effendi is unworthy of the post he holds.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 8 in No. 32.

Messrs. Hanson and Co. to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, December 20, 1879.

Sir,

WE have the honour to thank your Excellency for your prompt and courteous reply to our letter of the 15th instant, which we communicated with much satisfaction to Mr. James Binns.

We remain, &c.

(Signed) CHAS. L. HANSON AND Co.

Inclosure 9 in No. 32.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.) *Angora, December* 27, 1879.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's telegraphic despatch, dated 20th December, 1879, and reading as under:—

"I have demanded the dismissal of Husni Effendi; if it is not accorded, the consequences will be serious. Let me know at once what has been done in the case."

(Signed) "LAYARD."

After an interview with Khourshood Pasha, the Governor-General, I found it necessary to send your Excellency the following telegram, which I now confirm:—

"*Angora, December* 21, 1879.

"Receiving despatch of 20th, waited immediately on Vali. He replied, officially, that no instructions regarding dismissal of Husni Effendi, nor orders to prevent repetition of insulting conduct have been received either by post or telegram. I demanded the suspension of Defterdar, pending arrival of further instructions. This Vali declines to do; am therefore compelled to refer whole matter to your Excellency, and await further instructions."

"*Angora, December* 24, 1879.

"Governor-General advises receipt of telegram from Foreign Minister on 23rd, making inquiries regarding Husni Effendi affair, and directing him to report details. Vali accordingly desires me to submit what evidence and information I have to Court of Inquiry. Mr. Binns and self shrink from submitting evidence and offering Christian and foreign witnesses to a Turkish Court, composed of biassed, fanatically hostile officials, unless we have categoric instructions from your Excellency, which we accordingly await before complying with Vali's demand. Have ascertained that Husni Effendi telegraphs constantly to relations in capital that his dismissal seeming inevitable, to secure for him an exchange with Koniah, or Kastamboul Defterdar."

"*Pera, December* 24, 1879.

"By no means submit evidence to Court of Inquiry. Mr. Binns' declaration quite sufficient. I will take good care that Husni Effendi does not obtain an exchange or promotion as a reward for his insolent and unjustifiable conduct. I have repeated a peremptory demand for his dismissal, and I shall insist upon it.

(Signed) "LAYARD."

In accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I have replied to the Governor-General's repeated inquiries for evidence and information with regard to this case by requesting him to inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs that all necessary evidence is in the possession of Her Majesty's Embassy, and that he can make application there for it, should he think it desirable to do so. I inclose copies, in Turkish and English translation, of the correspondence that has passed between the Governor-General and myself with regard to this case. I trust that these official communications will meet with your Excellency's approval. I have endeavoured, as far as possible, in sending despatches which were unavoidably very unpleasant to those who received them, to make them, as far as the Turkish language permits, clear and dignified without being offensive.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

Inclosure 10 in No. 32.

Correspondence between Governor-General of Angora and Vice-Consul Gatheral.

(Translation.)

First Memorandum sent to Governor-General.

To his Excellency the Governor-General.

Sir,

WITH regard to the complaints that have been made by Mr. James Binns, an English subject, against Husni Effendi, the Provincial Accountant, because of the abusive and insulting language used by that official on speaking of the English Government and nation, I am authorized by a telegram dated $\frac{8}{20}$th December, received from Her Majesty's Ambassador, Sir H. Layard, to ascertain if any official order has or has not been received from the Sublime Porte with regard to the dismissal of some officials, and further, what steps have been taken by the Sublime Porte or Local Government with regard to this case. In order to give the Embassy the requisite information, I beg of you accordingly to inform me officially (concerning the same in writing) if orders for Husni Effendi's dismissal have been received, and also to inform me of the nature of the communications that have doubtless passed between the Sublime Porte and the Provincial Government with regard to this case.

(Signed) G. GATHERAL,
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

Reply to Memorandum received December $\frac{9}{21}$, 1879.

To English Vice-Consul.

Sir,

I have perused your esteemed memorandum dated $\frac{8}{20}$th December, and take this opportunity of confirming and repeating the sentiment of respect I entertained towards you. Confirming the conversation we have had to-day, I have to inform you that up to the present no orders have been received either from the Sublime Porte or from the Minister of Finance, with regard to what has taken place between Husni Effendi, the Provincial Accountant, and Mr. James Binns.

(Signed) KHOURSHOOD.

Governor-General of Angora to English Vice-Consul.

Sir, *December* $\frac{14}{26}$, 1879.

I had informed you in my reply, dated $\frac{13}{25}$th December, that no orders had reached [me?], either from the Sublime Porte or the Minister of Finance, with regard to the case of Husni Effendi, the Accountant of the Province, and Mr. James Binns. In a telegram received to-day from the Foreign Office it is set forth that the English Embassy has made representations with regard to the insulting language alleged to have been used by said Accountant having touched the honour of England, and that of Mr. James Binns personally. The Foreign Office further desires me to inform it of the ascertained truth in this case, and I therefore beg of you to furnish me with what detailed evidence and information you possess with regard to this case.

(Signed) KHOURSHOOD.

Reply to foregoing.

Sir, *December* $\frac{15}{27}$, 1879.

I have perused your Excellency esteemed of the $\frac{13}{25}$th instant, referring to the demand made by the Foreign Office to advise it of the ascertained truth in regard to Husni Effendi's case and the insulting conduct of that official. With reference to your request to be furnished with evidence and information I have to inform your Excellency that this request has my attention.

(Signed) G. GATHERAL.

Governor-General to Vice-Consul Gatheral.

Sir, *December* $\frac{17}{29}$, 1879.

I have perused your esteemed despatch dated $\frac{15}{27}$th December, referring to case of Husni Effendi and Mr. J. Binns, and advising me that my request for evidence has your attention. I beg to inform you further that the demand from the Foreign Office has been repeated by telegraph to-day, and beg of you to make haste in preparing the needful evidence and information.

(Signed) KHOURSHOOD.

Reply to Governor-General's Despatches.

Sir,

I have already acknowledged receipt of your Excellency's despatches of $\frac{16}{28}$th December, and have also perused your Excellency's further despatch of $\frac{17}{29}$th December requesting inquiry in preparing the evidence and information desired by the Foreign Office. Before submitting that evidence to your Excellency, I thought it right to apply to the Ambassador of my august Sovereign for my instructions as to furnishing evidence in proof of the insulting and contemptuous language made use of by Husni Effendi, the Provincial Accountant. I am now authorized to inform your Excellency that evidence has been forwarded to Her Majesty's Embassy at the time of the occurrence, and can be referred to them should the Foreign Office so desire it; and further that the insulting language so justly complained of was made use of in the Government building, and in the hearing of many officials and citizens, who have talked of it ever since with most circumstantial details.

(Signed) G. GATHERAL.

No. 33.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 22.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord, *Paris, January 8, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Circular addressed by Sawas Pasha to the Heads of Missions, defending and explaining the new Judicial Regulations which were put in force when Said Pasha, the present Prime Minister, was Minister of Justice. It is an answer to the numerous complaints which have come from all parts of the Empire against them.

His Excellency attributes these complaints to the resentment of functionaries who have been deprived of authority and influence in consequence of the Tribunals having been rendered independent of the Executive, and of Consular Agents, who can no longer claim to interfere in the administration of justice. The many complaints that have been addressed to this Embassy by Her Majesty's Consuls on this subject are not certainly to be attributed to the reason assigned. Every one will admit that, in principle, the independence of the Tribunals is very necessary to the proper administration of justice. The objections to the new Regulations are founded upon the fact, unfortunately too notorious, that the Judges who preside over the Tribunals are, for the most part, ignorant, incompetent, and corrupt; that the persons who have been selected to carry out the new system as Inspectors and "Procureurs-Généraux" bear, in very many instances, the same character; that bad as was the administration of justice before the recent change, it is still more unsatisfactory now; and that the fees now demanded are so high, and the necessity for giving bribes so imperative, that people will rather lose their property and suffer injury and wrong than appeal to the Courts.

Sawas Pasha does not altogether deny that there is truth in these accusations, but he insinuates that they would apply to all countries on the first introduction of a new judicial system. He maintains that in time, and with proper supervision, the causes for the complaints made against Said Pasha's Regulations will be removed. He points to Greece, Servia, Roumania, and the autonomous provinces as having, by similar legislation, resolved the problem of the proper administration of justice. But he forgets to mention that no sooner had those States and provinces been removed from the direct interference of the Porte than justice was fairly and substantially administered, and that the complaints so general in Turkey against the Tribunals almost entirely ceased. The Island of Crete affords a striking instance of this fact. It is the inveterate corruption which unhappily exists in every Department and amongst all classes in Turkey which renders all real reform of the Tribunals impossible. Let this corruption cease, let honest and capable Judges be provided, and every one would welcome a law which would secure the independence of the Tribunals from all control on the part of the Executive authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Extract from "La Turquie" of January 7, 1880.

LA RÉFORME JUDICIAIRE.—Son Excellence Sawas Pacha a remis aux Chefs des Missions la Note Circulaire suivante:—

"Par deux notes précédentes j'ai eu l'honneur de vous transmettre les lois et règlements concernant la nouvelle organisation de la justice en Turquie.

"Pour faire ressortir la nature et les conséquences de cette réforme fondamentale, il est nécessaire d'entrer dans quelques considérations sur lesquelles j'appelle toute votre attention.

"La justice s'est, de tout temps, exercée en Turquie indépendamment de l'Administration sous les auspices de la loi Islamique qui, extraite comme les lois de toutes les nations, d'un texte sacré, a été portée par les jurisconsultes Arabes à un degré de développement approchant celui du droit Romain. Cette loi prescrit et exige l'indépendance des Tribunaux. Aussi, le Cadi a-t-il de tout temps exercé ses fonctions de Juge avec la plus grande indépendance et sans la moindre immixtion du pouvoir administratif, faisant exécuter ses sentences par des huissiers ('mouhzirs'), attachés à

l'institution du Mehkémé et ne relevant que d'elle. Après le Hatt de Gulhané seulement, le Cadi ayant été nommé membre du Conseil Administratif de la province, en la même qualité que l'Evêque et le Rabbin, le Tribunal s'est trouvé en quelque sorte fondu dans un Corps Administratif, et il en est résulté dans tout l'Empire un fatal mélange d'attributions et des institutions hybrides que l'on a pu constater dans le 'Medjlissi-Vala' (Conseil Suprême), qui a fonctionné jusque dans ces derniers temps à Constantinople et qui était, en même temps, le Conseil Administratif et le Tribunal Suprême de l'Empire.

"Plus tard, les Tribunaux Mixtes ont été institués dans le but de séparer la justice de l'Administration. Il semblait, en effet, que ces institutions étaient appelées à vivre d'une existence propre et indépendante, et cette croyance a joui d'un tel crédit que deux fois le Sultan Abd-ul-Aziz, d'heureuse mémoire, a déclaré dans des discours prononcés à la Sublime Porte, que la séparation du pouvoir administratif du pouvoir judiciaire pouvait être considérée comme accomplie.

"Malheureusement, les hommes d'Etat si éminents qui se sont succédé au pouvoir pendant le règne précédent ne s'étaient pas aperçus, faute d'une expérience concluante, que les fonctionnaires administratifs—Valis, Mutessarifs, Caïmcams, ou Mudirs, restant chargés des attributions du Ministère Public et de l'exécution des sentences, la séparation proclamée était condamnée à rester lettre-morte.

"Il y a plus: ces fonctionnaires administratifs avaient seuls le droit de permettre, au moyen de leur apostile ('havalé') l'introduction des requêtes par devant les Tribunaux et seuls pouvaient rendre les sentences exécutoires en les revêtant d'un Décret d'exequatur ordonnant leur mise à exécution.

"Le simple caprice d'un fonctionnaire infime dans la hiérarchie administrative suffisait donc pour rendre nulle la sentence d'un Tribunal ou pour entraver la marche de la justice en empêchant tout recours et tout appel de se produire. Si nous ajoutons à cette situation la suprématie qu'exerçaient en leur qualité de Procureurs les fonctionnaires administratifs soit pour accuser, soit pour défendre les prévenus, nous ferons aisément comprendre que le système judiciaire péchait par la base et qu'on ne devait pas espérer une amélioration quelconque dans la société Ottomane à moins d'une réforme radicale de notre régime judiciaire. Cette réforme a été entreprise sous les inspirations civilisatrices de Sa Majesté le Sultan avec une grande énergie et avec une parfaite connaissance des exigences de l'époque par le Premier Ministre Son Altesse Saïd Pacha, qui était alors Ministre de la Justice, et cette lourde tâche a été poursuivie avec un incontestable succès.

"Le Code de Procédure Civile et Criminelle qui avait été élaboré sur la base de la législation des pays les plus avancés de l'Europe a été publié. Le Ministère Public et le corps des Huissiers ont été créés: enfin le corps des Notaires a été institué.

"Le Gouvernement Ottoman ayant adopté, après des essais et des tâtonnements qui duraient depuis un demi siècle, la législation Européenne et les institutions judiciaires qui en découlent, a certainement droit à l'éloge et aux félicitations des Gouvernements éclairés de l'Europe et de leurs représentants.

"Entrer immédiatement après ses désastres aussi courageusement qu'il l'a fait dans la voie tracée par le droit moderne est un acte dont la portée et les conséquences méritent d'être hautement appréciées.

"Malheureusement, les conditions vicieuses au milieu desquelles la société Ottomane se débat avec une énergie digne de toutes le sympathies du monde civilisé, maintiennent un état de choses peu propre à mettre fin aux abus qu'une longue habitude avait fini par faire considérer comme inscrit dans le droit intérieur et international de l'Empire.

"Ainsi, il est arrivé que quelques fonctionnaires administratifs naturellement dépouillés des attributions de Procureur et d'Huissier, et par conséquent de leur influence sur la distribution de la justice, n'ont point été favorables à l'établissement à côté d'eux des desservants de la justice, qui leur étaient souvent supérieurs par le savoir et l'indépendance. Il n'y a pas jusqu'à certaines agences Consulaires qui dans les provinces n'aient vu avec défiance et regret l'introduction d'un régime nouveau qui supprime bien des occasions d'exercer leur influence dans les détails de l'administration de la justice. Il est vrai que la plupart des Consuls de carrière font exception à cette règle; mais il n'est pas moins vrai qu'eux aussi se laissent quelquefois influencer par leurs nationaux et leurs subalternes peu favorables aux nouvelles institutions.

"Les Primats des différents pays qui ont toujours figuré comme membres des Conseils Administratifs et qui en cette qualité ont pu influencer la justice, se trouvent aujourd'hui rendus, par la nouvelle organisation, les égaux des autres citoyens et justiciables au même titre qu'eux des Tribunaux réguliers. Cette situation les vexe,

comme de nature, au plus haut degré, et les force à réagir contre le nouveau système. Ils ne se font point scrupule de le représenter aux yeux des étrangers comme impropre ou prématuré.

"La nouvelle organisation a dû, on le voit, déplaire à un grand nombre de personnes et aller à l'encontre d'une foule d'intérêts. Il n'est pas, par conséquent, étonnant que l'on cherche à la critiquer et, s'il est possible, à l'étouffer dans son berceau.

"Ne pouvant pas en faire l'objet d'une critique directe on cherche à l'atteindre par des imputations indirectes portant tant sur la situation de la société Ottomane que sur les personnes qui ont été chargées de l'application des nouvelles lois. Les unes et les autres sont également mal fondées. Nous allons le démontrer.

"Si l'on allègue que la Société Ottomane n'est pas à même et ne mérite pas encore d'être régie des institutions judiciaires perfectionnées, nous répondrons par les faits suivants:—

"1. Il y a cinquante ans, quand la Grèce s'est séparée de la Turquie, elle n'était qu'une province Ottomane et on ne peut pas admettre qu'en 1827 le Péloponèse possédât plus de lumières que les autres provinces Ottomanes n'en possèdent en 1880;

"2. La Serbie et la Roumanie, la petite Ile de Samos, ont introduit d'emblée la législation que nous venons d'adopter et ont résolu ainsi le problème de la distribution de la justice;

"3. Les pays, qui après nos derniers désastres ont été érigés en provinces autonomes, n'ont également point hésité à chercher leur salut et leur prospérité dans les institutions judiciaires dont on s'efforce de faire accroire que la nation Ottomane est incapable ou indigne de bénéficier, sans penser que les principes fondamentaux de ces institutions sont inscrits dans la loi Islamique.

"La seconde objection est moins sérieuse encore que la première. Dans tous les pays les institutions naissantes ont été confiées au commencement à des fonctionnaires jeunes dans la profession, et ce n'est que par le temps et par la multiplication des hommes spéciaux que le fonctionnement de ces institutions a pu atteindre une certaine perfection relative.

"Si on devait attendre que des jurisconsultes de premier ordre fussent formés en Turquie, avant de mettre la réforme en pratique, on condamnerait le pays à vivre pendant plusieurs lustres encore sous l'ancien régime. En outre, comme dans l'ancien système les hommes spéciaux n'étaient pas nécessaires, peu d'Ottomans se décideraient si on ne changeait pas ce système, à se préparer, par des études spéciales, pour une carrière qui ne serait point encore ouverte.

"Si l'on doute de l'exactitude de ce que nous venons d'avancer on n'a qu'à se rappeler quel était l'état du corps médical Ottoman, il y a quarante ans, et à jeter un regard sur son organisation due au règne glorieux du Sultan Abdul Medjid, organisation qui, en créant la carrière, a fait appel à l'intérêt individuel auquel on doit le corps médical indigène fort respectable qui existe actuellement en Turquie. Il en sera absolument de même du personnel judiciaire, et Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan Abdul-Hamid Khan aura l'impérissable gloire d'avoir fondé la magistrature judiciaire et assuré à ses sujets une bonne distribution de la justice, base fondamentale du bien-être de toutes les nations.

"Les rouages qui ont été inaugurés par les nouvelles lois sont ceux qui existent dans tous les pays civilisés:—

"1. Les Tribunaux de Première Instance, d'Appel, et de Cassation dont les Présidents et les membres sont payés et qui sont pourvus de Greffiers, de Secrétaires, et de Juges-Instructeurs, et devant lesquels les Avocats sont admis à plaider;

"2. Des Procureurs-Généraux et Impériaux chargés des mêmes attributions qu'en Europe;

"3. Des corps d'Huissiers attachés aux Tribunaux ne relevant que d'eux et fonctionnant sous leur responsabilité;

"4. Des bureaux de Notaires ayant pour but de donner une forme plus correcte et plus authentique aux transactions sociales.

"Ce mécanisme avait besoin d'être surveillé pendant son installation et pendant les premiers temps de son fonctionnement, par des hommes spéciaux et expérimentés ayant servi pendant longtemps et jouissant du prestige que confère une haute position acquise au service de l'Etat.

"C'est pour remplir cette indication capitale qu'on a formé une institution qui n'existe pas en Europe, c'est-à-dire le corps des Inspecteurs Judiciaires. Il me suffirait de nommer quelques-uns d'entre eux pour démontrer que ces fonctions ont été confiées aux plus dignes. Du reste, l'Inspecteur des Affaires Judiciaires remplit dans chaque

vilayet le rôle de Directeur de la Justice et doit être considéré comme un *alter ego* du Vali pour tout ce qui a trait aux questions judiciaires.

"Le système que je viens de résumer est, du reste, sans comparaison, plus simple que celui qu'il est appelé à remplacer. Il supprime la double qualité de Tribunal de Première et de Seconde Instance dont étaient revêtues toutes les Cours des Mutessarifliks; il fait cesser par conséquent l'abus de l'appel multiple; il supprime les institutions inconnues en Europe et contraires au droit Musulman qui ont fonctionné jusqu'ici sous la dénomination de 'Comité des Renvois' et 'Comité d'Exécution,' ainsi qu'une foule de formalités judiciaires dont l'énumération ne saurait être comprise dans le cadre de la présente note mais qui sont connues de tous. Il est donc appelé à mettre fin à un état de choses que la science du droit et une longue expérience ont également condamné.

"Ayant ainsi expliqué la réforme si importante qui vient de s'accomplir, je ne prétends pas mettre les détails de son exécution à l'abri de la critique. Je reconnais au contraire, qu'institution et personnel ont besoin d'une surveillance active et persévérante. L'institution doit être maintenue dans ses lignes réglementaires, et le personnel doit être épuré, de jour en jour, par l'élimination des membres qui se montreraient incapables ou indignes de la confiance du Gouvernement et leur remplacement par des sujets plus recommandables.

"Ce que je me suis proposé de faire par cette longue analyse est de mettre le système à l'abri des attaques de la malveillance, et de mettre l'opinion en garde contre des préventions mal fondées et souvent intéressées que je crois avoir suffisamment indiquées. Je suis persuadé que mes explications franches et loyales rencontreront des dispositions non moins bienveillantes et sincères qui nous aideront à vaincre les résistances, de quelque part qu'elles viennent, et à disposer les Gouvernements étrangers à n'accueillir qu'avec une prudente réserve les plaintes qui viendraient à se produire. C'est ainsi que la nouvelle institution traversera sûrement les vicissitudes inhérentes aux débuts de toute réforme importante et radicale et que le système judiciaire Ottoman pourra dans un avenir prochain être compté parmi ceux des nations civilisées.

"Demandant, comme je viens de faire, votre concours bienveillant et juste pour assurer le succès d'une institution aussi importante que celle qui nous préoccupe actuellement, je suis sûr de rencontrer auprès de vous un accueil favorable et empressé."

No. 34.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 40. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 9, 1880.

I THOUGHT it desirable to bring privately to the notice of Midhat Pasha, through a confidential channel, the accusations against him contained in Mr. Eldridge's despatch to me, No. 78 of the 6th ultimo (copy of which was transmitted to your Lordship) without, however, letting him know from whence I had obtained my information. I gave his Highness to understand, at the same time, that if these charges were well founded, and he continued to countenance the misgovernment and corruption to which they referred, I should feel it my duty to withdraw from him that support which he has hitherto received from me at head-quarters.

I now inclose copy of a private letter from a person in his Highness' confidence, which explains the origin of the accusations against him, and justifies the policy he has pursued.

It also points out the difficulties that have been thrown in his way from Constantinople, and hints at his intention of resigning his post. I have no doubt that much that Midhat Pasha urges in his defence is true. With the present state of things at Constantinople no Governor, however upright and desirous of promoting the welfare of the populations, can discharge his duty and carry out his good intentions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Vassif Clician to Mr. Nicolson.

(Particulière.)
Beyrouth, le 26 Décembre, 1879.

Mon cher Nicolson,

A L'INSTANT je viens de recevoir votre lettre du 15 courant, que je me suis empressé de communiquer à son Altesse, et de qui je suis chargé de remercier son Excellence pour les notifications qu'elle lui fait. Qu'il me soit permis de vous répondre au sujet des quatre points qui je relève dans votre lettre:—

1. Mr. Eldridge m'ayant communiqué les abus faits par les employés du cadastre, j'ai immédiatement télégraphié pour avoir des renseignements, et voici la réponse que nous venons de recevoir. Le village appartient à Mr. Wood (ex-Consul-Général Anglais à Tunis) et est grevé de 4,140 piastres. L'intendant de Mr. Wood a réclamé, comme d'après le Règlement, qu'une diminution soit faite.

Le Medjliss ayant constaté la demande juste a diminué cet impôt de 1,600 à 2,000 piastres. Non content de cette réponse vague, le Pacha a ordonné qu'un employé spécial soit envoyé sur les lieux, pour dresser un Rapport sur les menées corrompues des employés du cadastre, et sitôt que le résultat sera connu je ne manquerai pas, comme d'ailleurs il était entendu avec Mr. Eldridge, de le lui communiquer.

2. Il est notoire, comme vous le dites si bien, que Youssouf Mamluk jouit de la plus mauvaise réputation, mais depuis l'arrivée de son Altesse aucune plainte sérieuse n'avait été reçue. Celles qui se sont données n'ont pas été admises, car elles ne se basent sur aucun fait. Ce qui a excité plusieurs personnes contre cet homme, c'est l'attitude qu'il a prise dans les enchères des dîmes de l'année passée.

Les dîmes des villages de Sour et Saïda étaient depuis quelque temps apparties à de très-bas prix par certains des drogmans de Consuls, qui intimidaient les enchérisseurs en les menaçant. L'année passée Youssouf Mamluk demanda au Gouverneur s'il pouvait renchérir; naturellement il lui fut répondu que oui, et le résultat fut que des villages apparties par messieurs les drogmans au prix de 25,000 à 30,000 piastres montèrent jusqu'à 150,000 piastres. Cet acte de renchérissement déchaîna toute la fureur des anciens apporteurs avides d'argent, et les poussa à dénigrer et chercher à se débarrasser de ce gêneur. Dernièrement, enfin, ils firent porter plainte contre lui et le Caïmacam de Sour, un certain Halil Bey, par un nommé Saïd Enim, de Saïda, qui, muni de papiers couverts de centaines de cachets, se rendit à Damas. Le Pacha, après avoir fait examiner ces documents, constata que tous les cachets étaient faux. On demanda aux signataires et tous répondirent unanimement que ces cachets n'étaient pas les leurs, et qu'on les avait fabriqués à Damas.

Mais le Pacha, désirant éclaircir bien la situation, traduisit Halil Bey devant le Tribunal, et aujourd'hui on juge, d'après le règlement, dans le Conseil Administratif, ce procès. Comme toutes les formalités ne sont pas encore accomplies et que les débats continuent, je ne puis vous dire le résultat.

Vous seriez le premier à nous dénigrer si, sans preuves et sans jugement, on se permettrait de condamner un homme. Vous pouvez assurer son Excellence que jamais son Altesse ne sera influencée par quelle que soit la protection qu'un employé peut donner à un particulier. Pour lui tout homme doit être respecté, mais sitôt fautif il doit aussi être puni.

3. Il n'y a pas de sandjak plus mal administré, où le vol, le délit, les crimes, la corruption et le gaspillage sont à l'ordre du jour, que le Sandjak de St. Jean d'Acre. Toutes les instructions, les reproches, &c., que son Altesse fit au Mutessarif sont restées infructueuses. Il a aussi essayé d'envoyer quelques employés pour arranger certaines affaires d'arriérés et d'impôts, mais ces employés aussi ne purent parvenir à exécuter leur tâche. Son Altesse s'était donc décidé de se rendre elle-même sur les lieux, mais ces inspections coûtent cher. La Porte lui a refusé les frais de route, et aujourd'hui son Altesse, par manque de moyens, est presque obligée d'assister impassiblement à la mauvaise direction des affaires de St. Jean d'Acre. Quant aux Druzes, moi-même je leur ai remis, il y a quelques jours, une lettre pour l'imbécile de Gouverneur d'Acre.

4. La nomination d'un Chrétien dont la capacité et l'honnêteté a été prouvée lors de sa gestion comme Mudir à Tripoli, décida le Pacha à l'élever au rang et le nommer Caïmacam de Merkab. Depuis nous avons reçu de nombreuses adresses de la part de toute la population et des différentes races. Je crois donc que les renseignements qui vous ont été fournis pèchent d'exactitude, et je ne puis comprendre quel peut être le motif de cette méchanceté.

5. Toutes les plaintes qui peuvent provenir de Tripoli et ailleurs sont dirigées

contre les Tribunaux. Cette indépendance qui leur a été accordée est une fatalité et nous conduira dans de très-mauvaises impasses. Ainsi, des inculpés qui ont été arrêtés avec tant de peine par les autorités, sont aujourd'hui relâchés par les Tribunaux, sans même réviser et sans même nous donner le moindre avis. La corruption dans ce vilayet étant générale, et tandis que nous cherchions le moyen de la restreindre et de l'arrêter, elle augmenta d'une façon terrible, et cela grâce à la mesure économique décrétée pour retrancher et diminuer les appointements au point de ne permettre même pas aux employés de vivre.

Il faut être bien crédule de penser qu'un employé de qui l'on exige de savoir lire, écrire, et travailler peut subsister et se contenter de 150 à 200 piastres par mois! Cette fâcheuse et ruineuse situation a été déjà rapportée à différentes reprises officiellement et officieusement à la Sublime Porte, et chose étrange, au lieu d'y remédier, on a eu la bonne idée de faire encore une réduction de 15 pour cent sur les salaires. Peut-on s'imaginer qu'un comptable d'un Caïmacamlik, un écrivain de bureau, et un greffier d'un Tribunal, dont chacun d'eux a plus ou moins de pouvoir à augmenter ou à diminuer les charges d'un contribuable, d'emprisonner ou de délivrer un inculpé, puisse se contenter de vivre avec £ T. 2 par mois et n'accepte pas le bakshish qu'une main heureuse lui tend? Cet acte ici n'est pas du tout considéré comme méprisable.

Je conclus, et je dis que si son Altesse a donné sa démission, et s'obstine à vouloir la maintenir, c'est cette situation précaire et l'état général de la Syrie, où, paraît-il, on l'a envoyé par assister impassible aux vexations, vols, &c., sans lui permettre d'y remédier. Dans de telles conditions, et avec de pareils pouvoirs, je crois que Sir H. Layard rendrait un grand service à son Altesse s'il pouvait obtenir son éloignement au moins momentané de ce chaos.

Son Altesse tient beaucoup plus à ne pas compromettre sa réputation vis-à-vis surtout de ses amis, que de rester ici et perdre son prestige.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. VASSIF CLICIAN.

No. 35.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an interesting despatch from Mr. Consul Robertson, giving an account of the present state of affairs in the district of Busrah, which has been communicated to me by Colonel Miles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Consul Robertson to Colonel Miles.

Sir, *Busrah, November* 21, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report that robberies continue to be of frequent occurrence in and around Busrah, and there has been no instance as yet of the culprits being brought to justice. Sometimes the robbers act in a daring and contemptuous manner, as in the robbery of a Jew money-changer's stall in the centre of the principal bazaar one morning last week, by three men, who afterwards walked out of the bazaar with drawn weapons, successfully defying anyone to lay hands on them.

The prevailing insecurity is to be attributed to the inefficiency of the gendarmerie as a police force; the semi-disaffected state of the settled Arabs, which causes them to harbour and abet criminals; and, incidentally, the present high prices of food.

Zabet Pasha informs me that Lieutenant-Colonel Said Bey, who commands the regular infantry here, has been entrusted with the reform of the gendarmerie. The force, according to his scheme, will consist of 400 carefully-selected men, armed with Martini rifles and revolvers. I fear, however, that the project of establishing an efficient police force in the manner proposed will prove impracticable from want of funds wherewith to obtain the services of a good class of men; while Said Bey, although one of

the best men connected with the local Government, has had no experience of police duties.

The Tribunals here are being remodelled in conformity with orders which arrive from time to time from Constantinople. Instead of the former two Courts, the Pances-el-Hakook, or Adjudication of Rights, and the Tajarah, or Mercantile Court, there will in future be three—the Medjliss-el-Bayadah, or Court of First Instance, with a civil and a criminal division; the Tajarah, or Mercantile Court, as before; and a Court which may be appealed to from either of the others, called the Medjliss-el-Lolinef. There will also be a Public Prosecutor, or Mudder-el-Amoomi. He and the Judge of the Medjliss-el-Istinaf are to be sent from Constantinople, but they do not appear to have been appointed yet. At Busrah the old Courts were sufficient had they been better administered; and their worthlessness lay not in their form or constitution, but in the ignorance and venality of many of the persons, especially the Cadis, who composed them. The Cadi here, who, according to the new arrangements, was President of the Medjliss-el-Badayah, and whose ignorance, bigotry, and venality were exceptional even among Cadis, has just been dismissed from that office. In a case of theft which admitted of no doubt, he having been bribed by the thief refused to convict, because the witnesses were Christians and Jews. When pressed, he telegraphed to the Minister of Justice to ask if the evidence of infidels should be accepted. The reply was his dismissal, and a letter to Zabet Pasha from the Minister of Justice remarking on the extreme unfitness of such a man to hold the office of Judge in these days. The Cadi's successor as President of the Medjliss-el-Badayah has not been named yet, and I understand that Zabet Pasha is anxious to obtain the appointment of some man who is not a Cadi.

The people here appear to be thoroughly weary of insecurity and the present style of government, and would, I believe, cordially welcome administrative reforms under British supervision. Such, at least, is the constant burthen of their conversation with myself, and the inquiries as to how British naturalization can be obtained are constant. A good sign is a movement in favour of educating their children, which has sprung up among the leading Mussulmans, headed by Kasim Zahsaid Pasha. The teachers are respectable Christian lads, brought from Beyrout by Kasim Pasha at his own expense, and primarily to educate his own children. The religious prejudice against "infidel" teachers is gradually being got over, and many Mussulmans of local standing have availed themselves of the permission, which is freely granted, to send their boys to Kasim Pasha's school free of cost. There is also a Government school ("Maktab Rushdeynh"), but one of the Turkish teachers having taken liberties with the boys some time ago, there is a prejudice against it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. ROBERTSON.

No. 36.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 22.*)

(No. 70.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 13, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter I have received from Mgr. Nersès, the Armenian Patriarch, representing the state of destitution to which the inhabitants of the district of Moush are reduced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Monsignor Nersès to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Patriarcat Arménien, le 24 Décembre,* 1879 (v.s.).

ON m'écrit de Terdjan en date du 8, du 12, et du 18 courant, et sous la signature de plusieurs Notables, tant Chrétiens que Musulmans, que les autorités locales refusent de prendre en considération la plupart des reçus qu'elles ont délivrés aux paysans lors de la dernière guerre en échange de leurs fournitures et avec promesse de rabattre du total des impôts le montant de ces quittances. La population est réduite à une misère extrême. Les impôts sont excessivement onéreux. Chrétiens et Musulmans sollicitent la protection du Patriarche Arménien qui inonde de takrirs la Sublime Porte.

Je reçois le télégramme suivant en date du 10 courant, et signé par plusieurs Notables Chrétiens et Musulmans de Moush:

"Nous apprenons que la Sublime Porte se propose se faire de Bitlis le chef-lieu d'un nouveau vilayet. Nous venons proposer notre ville comme chief-lieu, et voici pourquoi:

"Le Sandjac de Moush est une longueur du vingt heures sur une largeur de six heures. Il contient 200 villages, une population mixte de 80,000 mâles, et beaucoup d'églises et de monastères antiques et florissants desservis par plus de 600 moines. Ce district est environné par des tribus Kurdes campées à Ghendj, à Sassoun, à Pruashen, à Khonil, à Boutanek, à Manazgherd, à Zaler, et à Vartis. Ces Kurdes sont armés et au nombre de 20,000; ils oppriment sans pitié les paysans Chrétiens et Musulmans, et l'on en trouve toujours 150 pour le moins dans la prison de Moush.

"Le sandjac dispose de cinq bataillons de cavalerie et d'infanterie chargés de maintenir l'ordre; cette gendarmerie est fort insuffisante et ne saurait tenir tête aux rebelles. Si la Sublime Porte consentait à faire de Moush le centre du nouveau vilayet, le sort de la population aurait été sensiblement amélioré.

"On pourrait objecter qu'il y a aussi des Kurdes à Bitlis; pourtant ils sont beaucoup moins nombreux que ceux de Moush.

"Bitlis, de même que Moush et Van, communiquent avec la capitale par la voie d'Erzéroum. Le chemin entre Bitlis et Moush est obstrué par la neige depuis le mois de Décembre jusqu'au mois de Mai. La ville de Moush étant plus populeuse que celle de Bitlis, les habitants auront beaucoup de peine à se rendre au chef-lieu projeté pour faire entendre leurs plaintes, car, en hiver, on met quelquefois vingt jours pour se rendre de Moush à Bitlis.

"Il y a aussi cet inconvénient, que Bitlis étant un pays peu fertile et montueux, les fonctionnaires du nouveau vilayet auraient toutes les peines du monde à se procurer du foin pour leurs chevaux, tandis que le district de Moush est très-fertile et très-riche en herbage."

On m'écrit de Van, en date du 23 courant, que lors de la dernière guerre les paysans Arméniens, sans compter des secours et contributions volontaires considérables, avaient fournis des provisions aux troupes Turques et les autorités leur avaient délivré des reçus avec promesse de rabattre du total des impôts les sommes dues par le Gouvernement. Elles refusent aujourd'hui de prendre en considération ces quittances. Grâce à la négligence des autorités, la famine fait de rapides progrès dans la Province de Van. La population, en proie au plus vif désespoir, songe à émigrer.

En portant ces faits à la connaissance de votre Excellence je prends la liberté de la prier de vouloir bien intervenir auprès de qui de droit pour mettre un terme à cette déplorable situation.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) NERSÈS,
Le Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie.

No. 37.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January 22.*)

(No. 71.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 13, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Adrianople, Bagdad, Busreh, Rustchuk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, January 2,* 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Church of Kiyik, mentioned in my despatch No. 20 of the 20th ultimo, was formally handed over to the Greek Bishop on the 30th ultimo.

A strong force of troops and gendarmerie was, by order of the Governor-General,

stationed in the precincts of the Church, to prevent any disturbance on the part of th Bulgarians.

The Greeks, however, ridicule the idea of there being anywhere in the neighbourhood a sufficient number of Bulgarians to create any serious disorder, and they have, I understand, requested Reouf Pasha to remove the military force which has been quartered in the parish of Kiyik since the re-opening of the Church. The Greeks say that, the presence of such a force may lead persons unacquainted with the real state of the case to believe that the Bulgarians really constitute an important portion of the community; whereas, according to them, the Bulgarians of Kiyik form a very small minority.

In order, once for all, to set at rest this vexed question, the Greek Bishop has, he informs me, requested the Governor-General to appoint a Mixed Commission to take a census of the parish.

In the meantime, the Governor-General has, I understand, promised to give to the Bulgarian community of this town a plot of ground on which to build a church for themselves.

As an indication of the very undecided religious sentiments of the Adrianople Bulgarians, I may mention that several of the leading Bulgarians of Kiyik were present at the ceremony of the reopening of the church, and were among the first to kiss the hand of the Greek Bishop.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, January 2, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Commission of Reforms finished its labours yesterday, after having introduced into the draft Statute, framed at the Porte, a very considerable number of modifications.

Three of the Greek members of the Commission called upon me yesterday, and informed me that certain modifications which they had proposed had not been accepted by the majority of the Commission, but had been left over for discussion and definitive settlement by the Provincial Assembly, which, under present arrangements, will meet at Adrianople in the month of October next.

These modifications were as follows:—

1. In lieu of the rule that an equal number of Mussulman and non-Mussulman members should be elected to the Departmental Administrative Councils, it is proposed that the election of the Councillors be left to the free choice of the population, and that no stipulations be made in the Statute as to their religion or race.

2. That the Greek language be officially recognized; not necessarily in the Government notices and Proclamations; but at all events in regard to petitions from Greek subjects of the Porte, or when litigants before a Tribunal demand that a sentence rendered be communicated to them in that language.

3. The establishment of a Cadastre of all landed and house property.

This latter institution would, the Greek Representatives rightly argue, put an end to the innumerable cases of doubtful proprietorship which at present exist, and thus deprive influential and unscrupulous persons of the power they have hitherto enjoyed of appropriating lands belonging by right to their neighbours. It would, in fact, place the rights of property on a secure footing, such as is enjoyed in other European countries.

The Mussulman members, and the Bulgarian member of the Commission have, however, it appears, steadfastly opposed the introduction of a Cadastral survey; being themselves large landed proprietors, and having, no doubt, availed themselves, at the expense of the peasantry, of the heretofore existing uncertainty of landed proprietorship.

Reouf Pasha has promised to furnish me, within a few days, with a summary of the most important modifications which have been introduced into the proposed Statute by the Commission of Reforms, and which he hopes your Excellency will advise the Porte to accept.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 37.

Lieutenant-Colonel Miles to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Bagdad, December 10, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that for some time past the Vali has, under orders from Constantinople, been disposing of the unoccupied and uncultivated land in this vilayet, at any price he could obtain for it, and it seems to have fetched generally about one fourth of its value. It is generally credited here that a large portion of the land sold has been purchased by the Sultan himself.

About five weeks ago his Excellency Abdul Rahmen Pasha received an order to dispatch 40,000 liras to Constantinople without delay. This amount was to be raised by loan, by anticipation of next grass taxes, or in any way possible, but on no account would its remittance be excused.

The greater part of this sum, if not the whole, was obtained in various ways by the Pasha, and remitted accordingly; but it was not done, I believe, without considerable sacrifice, and the probability of the revenue next year being proportionately diminished.

The administration of this vilayet continues to be conducted by Abdul Rahman Pasha with much ability, and I believe honesty of purpose; but he has many difficulties to contend with which prevents his achieving the success he aims at, and which would otherwise be his.

The tendency of recent changes and reforms has been to reduce his authority, and render those formerly under his control independent of him.

It seems to me that a very salutary check upon maladministration and abuse in the various Departments of Government is thus removed, which is not compensated for by any corresponding advantage. I think that the Vali has not sufficient powers, and that his hand requires to be strengthened rather than weakened by over centralization.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. B. MILES.

Inclosure 4 in No. 37.

Consul Robertson to Lieutenant-Colonel Miles.

Sir, *Busreh, November 20, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Governor-General of Busreh recently received a telegram from the Porte, directing him to raise in this Pashalic, by whatever means seemed best, the sum of £T. 50,000 for transmission to Constantinople. All Turkish subjects of means have been called upon to contribute, the sum to be paid by each being fixed in accordance with his reputed wealth. Treasury receipts will be taken in payment of taxes next year. Half the amount demanded will probably be obtained, and the revenue for next year will, therefore, if the Turks keep faith, be anticipated to that extent.

It is reported here that this pressing demand for money is caused by fear of a meeting of the troops in European Turkey, if the arrears of pay due to them be longer withheld.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. C. ROBERTSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 37.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul-General Ashburnham.

Sir, *Rustchuk, January 7, 1880.*

I WROTE you unofficially on the 31st ultimo regarding a certain conversation between the Russian Consul, the Governors of Rustchuk and Varna, and as I have now got the gentleman who overheard it to write it out from memory, I think it advisable that I should transmit a copy to you, as, supposing it to have been as I believe, real, it is very important; and on the other hand, supposing it to have been directed at the listener, which I think highly improbable, it must still have a motive.

"Je me suis trouvé au club lorsque le nouveau Gouverneur de Varna, de passage

de notre ville, est venu avec le Gouverneur de Roustchouk tout expressément voir le Consul de Russie, M. Bellotsorcovetz, qui les attendait au cercle. Après une conversation à voix basse, le Représentant Russe, s'étant un peu échauffé, a commencé à discuter avec ces deux visiteurs à haute voix sur la nécessité et le devoir des autorités locales de veiller assidument sur l'élément étranger en Bulgarie, prenant toutes les mesures pour mettre un frein à toutes les libertés et les priviléges que les étrangers croient pouvoir jouir comme au temps des Turcs.

"Le Consul Russe attirait l'attention des deux Gouverneurs sur les institutions surtout étrangères, et en particulier sur le chemin de fer de Varna-Roustchouk, leur enjoignant presque de prêter toute leur attention sur cette Compagnie, qui est, dit-il, Bulgare, quoique la construction soit Anglaise, et que aujourd'hui l'Autriche, qui a des visées malveillantes sur la Bulgarie, accorde sa protection à son exploitation et son trafic; tant que cette protection était exercée par la France il n'y avait aucun danger; mais la Bulgarie devra aujourd'hui plus que jamais avoir ses yeux ouvert sur l'Autriche; pour cela il conjure les deux Gouverneurs qui se trouvent à la tête des deux provinces importantes, et où passe ce chemin de fer, devraient sans perte de temps prendre toutes les mesures nécessaires pour restreindre les attributions des employés qui doivent être soumis aux autorités locales et aux lois du pays; demander à tout instant des renseignements minutieux sur tout et en tout; exercer une police rigoureuse; exiger de suite le cahier de charges, &c., et si les autorités rencontre de l'opposition, empêcher le trafic, en suspendant la circulation des trains.

"Les deux Gouverneurs, novices en tout et pour tout, n'ayant pas des instructions de leur Gouvernement de ce sujet, comme ils l'avouaient humblement et tout naïvement, néanmoins entendant tout cela de la bouche d'un Consul de Russie, l'écoutaient religieusement, tâchant de ne point perdre un mot; enfin, promettant de tout faire d'après ce que leur était dit, le Consul leur promettant de les guider dans le cas où ils se trouveraient embarrassés pour agir.

"Après cela les deux Gouverneurs prirent congé très-respectueusement du Représentant du Czar-Libérateur, tout en le remerciant pour ces bons conseils, qu'ils ne manqueront pas de mettre en exécution, et qu'ils espéraient que, grâce à son appui, il sera content d'eux."

It is noticeable that threats are held out of bringing all the employers under Bulgarian jurisdiction. This would be tantamount to making all British subjects in the country Bulgars. Probably, in the first place, they would arrest the three or four engine-drivers, who are British subjects, on some frivolous pretext, which, of course, I would resist; but it must be very unpleasant for them to look forward to an arbitrary and unjust imprisonment, followed by a liberation more or less tardy, and no reparation.

I feel certain that, if steps are not at once taken to obviate it, this result is probable, and will be followed by the abandonment of the country by all the British subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 38.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 22.)

(No. 72. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 14, 1880.

CONSUL Henderson's despatch to me (copy inclosed in my despatch to your Lordship No. 1043 of the 23rd November last) having reference to a letter addressed to me by Mgr. Nersès, the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople. I have communicated the substance of it to His Beatitude, whose observations on the subject are contained in the inclosed memorandum from Dragoman Marinich and are deserving of your Lordship's consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 38.

M. Marinich to Sir A. H. Layard.

Péra, le 14 *Janvier*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que, suivant ses instructions, j'ai communiqué hier au Patriarche Nersès la dépêche du Consul de Sa Majesté à Alep. Sa Sainteté m'a prié d'en remercier sincèrement votre Excellence, et de lui dire que les informations que Mr. Henderson a transmises à l'Ambassade s'accordent entièrement avec le Rapport envoyé au Patriarcat par les personnes chargées de faire une enquête sur les lieux.

Le Patriarche Arménien m'a ajouté que les faits mentionnés dans la dépêche du Consul d'Angleterre à Alep peuvent amener de très-sérieuses conséquences, et l'Ambassade, dit-il, ne saurait en méconnaître la gravité au point de vue de l'avenir et de l'influence Anglaise en Asie. Si la France réussira à avoir gain de cause dans cette occurrence, a dit le Patriarche, les faits dont il s'agit peuvent donner lieu à une nouvelle ère de propagande qu'il importe surtout à l'Angleterre d'en prendre les devants. En voyant l'influence de la France triompher, les Arméniens du district se feront tous Catholiques Romains, a ajouté Sa Sainteté, et cet exemple pourraient bien être suivi dans autres localités.

Le Patriarche a flétri amèrement les tentatives de prosélytisme exercées par les Jésuites et les Franciscains comme incompatibles avec les idées du siècle où nous vivons. Il a trouvé aussi peu digne de la part de la communauté Catholique Romaine de se servir de l'influence de la Puissance qui la couvre de sa protection pour convertir par la violence ou d'autres moyens ceux qui appartiennent à une communauté Chrétienne comme c'est l'Eglise Arménienne Grégorienne. Cette conduite, a dit Mgr. Nersès, ne laisse de produire le plus triste effet sur la population Musulmane.

Sa Sainteté n'a pas pu dissimuler son étonnement de voir qu'un Consul de France en Turquie suit une ligne de conduite qui n'est pas en harmonie avec la politique dont s'inspire le Gouvernement de la République Française.

Dernièrement le Patriarche ayant visité l'Ambassadeur de France, ce dernier lui a fait voir une lettre de son Consul à Alep, dans laquelle il se plaignait du Caïmacam, que Mr. Henderson représente comme tout-à-fait innocent, ce dont le Patriarche est convaincu.

En conséquence, Mgr. Nersès m'a chargé de dire à votre Excellence qu'il importe que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté exerce son influence afin que le Caïmacam en question soit installé dans ses premières fonctions, et que le Scheikh Hana soit efficacement protégé pour empêcher qu'il ne devienne la victime de la vengeance du Consul de France. Le Patriarche a donné de son côté l'ordre au Catholicos d'Alep de ne pas exiger le paiement des 200 livres dues par le prêtre Arménien, et il peut bien se faire, dit Sa Sainteté, que celui-ci rentre dans le giron de l'Eglise Grégorienne, ce qui ne manquera pas de porter un coup terrible aux tentations de propagande exercées par le Consul de France à Alep.

(Signé) HUGO MARINICH.

No. 39.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 27.)

(No. 1. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, January* 3, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch and a private letter addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte by Lieutenant Chermside, who has communicated a copy of them to me. Saïd Pasha, the present Governor-General, has resigned, and Mazhar Pasha is using every effort at Constantinople to obtain the appointment. Lieutenant Chermside was attached to the Commission of which Mazhar Pasha was chief, and he had a good opportunity of forming an opinion of the character of the man.

Mazhar Pasha has lately been appointed to a post of importance at Constantinople, but it is most desirable that he should not return as Governor-General to a province where he was the chief actor in such scenes as those described in Lieutenant Chermside's letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 39.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 36.)

Sir, *Aleppo, December* 31, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency, that after consultation with Her Majesty's Consul here, I have thought it my duty to forward some details as to the antecedents, habits of life, and surrounding of Mazhar, late First Reform Commissioner for the Vilayet of Aleppo.

As these details are in many cases of such a nature as to be unfit for an official despatch, I forward them herewith in a private letter to your Excellency of this date.

I had intended to let the matter stand over until I had an opportunity of conversing with your Excellency, but the fact of Said Pasha wishing to leave this vilayet on the score of ill-health has made the Consul anxious that I should write to your Excellency on the subject at once.

Mazhar Pasha left this with the avowed intention of returning as Vali. Your Excellency is, indeed, aware that he got up a petition in the manner such are so often got up in this country, that he might be nominated as successor to Ghalib Pasha. There is, indeed, a grave suspicion that the disturbances during Ramazan, and other matters which seemed to reflect on Ghalib Pasha's administration, were fomented by Mazhar, and there is no doubt, for Ghalib himself told both Her Majesty's Consul and Said Pasha so, that he deceived him in many matters. Since his return to Constantinople he has been prodigal of letters and compliments to those here whose interests or sympathies render them conscious to support to Government of corruption and venality that he would assuredly carry on.

I have no hesitation in saying that Mazhar Pasha is utterly unfit to be Vali of a province from his drunken habits alone, and from the incapacity for the proper transaction of public business that his habitual tippling (day as well as night) induces; above all is he unfit for the government of a province such as Aleppo—perhaps the most difficult vilayet of the Turkish Empire to administer. There is no doubt, however, that he is doing all he can to gain this post; trained in the traditions of the bureaux of the Porte, and well versed in all their corrupt chicanery and intrigue, he has besides a most extensive circle of acquaintance among the highest functionaries of the Empire.

I remember while resting a day on the voyage from Scanderun to Aleppo he dispatched over fifty complimentary letters, announcing his arrival (his secretary told me upwards of 100), to great personages of every description.

He is cringing and sycophantic to his superiors, and misses no opportunity of ingratiating himself with them.

He has recently been nominated President of the Refugee Commission at the capital, and there can be no doubt that with his knowledge of the means that can be successfully employed to ensure his procural of some lucrative appointment, he will attempt to use this merely as a stepping-stone to something better. A man named Bardakji, the local agent here of Telli Oghlu, an Armenian banker of Constantinople, has heard from his principal that Mazhar Pasha wishes to borrow 1,500*l.*; this, it is confidently asserted here, is to make up the sum necessary to buy the post, *i.e.*, 4,000*l.* to 5,000*l.* Abdu Rahman Pasha, its present Vali, paid 5,000*l.* for the Vilayet of Bagdad, according to the statement of his agent who passed through here, and Nashid Pasha, then Mutessarif of Marash, once paid 5,000*l.* for Aleppo. The money was counted to Djevdet Pasha, then *en route* to take up his post in the Ministry at Constantinople, in his tent at Beylan. That Mazhar Pasha should ever have been selected for such a mission as the Aleppo Reform Commission is, in my humble opinion, a very serious reflection on the good faith of the Porte, and on the genuineness of its intentions, and undoubtedly is strong evidence in support of the suspicions of so many residents in Turkey, that the whole action in the matter of reforms is merely intended as a blind to the Powers.

Mazhar Pasha has been employed for years in the offices of the Porte, and his character for corruption, vices, and venality is notorious among Turkish officials, as your Excellency will see from the accompanying letter.

That he should have been selected at the time when England was demanding a Reform Commission, and when England and France were both anxious to have an inquiry at Zeitoun impartially conducted, seems, in view of his antecedents, a proceeding on the part of the Porte that, to say the least, points to a most reprehensible

negligence. In the Cabinet then administering Turkish affairs, Kadri and Djevdet Pashas, if no others, must have been well aware of the nature of the man who was selected for such an important mission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 39.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Dear Sir Henry Layard, *Aleppo, December* 31, 1879.

THE following is an account of Mazhar Pasha's antecedents as far as I have been able to trace them. Mazhar Bey was originally brought forward through the influence of the Egyptian Kiamil Pasha, and I think it extremely likely from his subsequent history, that as is so often the case in the East, that Mazhar was one of his "boys."

Mazhar Bey was "Eirak Mudiri," or Keeper of the Archives to the Porte, and while so employed must have become acquainted with the unseen workings of Turkish administration, and doubtless acquired a thorough knowledge of the more secret methods of application of the universal bribery and corruption.

He next became either a member of the "Shevrai Devlet," or Council of State, or in some way connected with that body.

Mahmoud Bey, now Chief Secretary of the Porte, a man of evil reputation, was at this time his chief ally, when the new buildings of his Department of the "Bab Ali," or Porte, were constructed; Mazhar was the official in charge of the works, and he availed himself, it is said, of this opportunity to clear between 2,000*l.* and 3,000*l.*

During Ali Pasha's Grand Vizierate, he became President of the Commission for choosing the minor vilayet officials (Tahtih-hab Commission) Kaimakams and Muchirs, and the patronage in the hands of this Commission and the power resting with its President of influencing its decisions were, I am told, unscrupulously used to make money right and left, and judging from what I have seen of his successful attempt in this vilayet to usurp the patronage properly vested in the Vali, and his manner of using it, I can well believe this.

It was an understood thing that every appointment must be paid for, and Mazhar Bey was a noted tool of bribery in the hands of his superiors.

When Mahmoud Nedim came into power, Mazhar with others was dismissed from the Government offices at Constantinople, and became Kaimakam of Gemlik, on the Gulf of Modania, with a salary of 2,000 piastres a-month.

He succeeded in establishing a friendship with Ahmet Bey, Mahmoud Nedim's son-in-law, who was the latter's tool or "spoon" for all matters of contract, &c., such as the "Hirsch Concession" and other affairs, the large profits or commission of his Highness in which are matters of notoriety.

Through the influence of Ahmet Bey, Mazhar became Mutessarif of Tchataldja, a sandjak I know well, and in which his reputation for money-making and venality was well sustained.

From Tchataldja he moved to Sophia as Mutessarif, and there his relations with intriguing Bulgarians and others, and the usual opportunities for peculation to be found by a Governor in Turkey, are said to have filled his pockets well.

While at Tchataldja or Sophia he became a Pasha of the rank of Liva.

At Sophia, among other things, he is said to have got 20 per cent. on every "havale," by paying them out of turn, &c., and I am told that Hafi Pasha was well aware of this.

In all, his profits at Sophia from the usual transactions with the inhabitants, and the special opportunity afforded by the Government works, are said to have amounted to 30,000*l.*

It was while Mazhar Pasha was Governor at Sophia that the Government was undertaking the construction of railways, having paid Baron Hirsch to give up his concession just at the point where the difficult section from Bellova to the Servian frontier would have probably swallowed up all, perhaps more than all, the profits which the line to Adrianople and Philippopoli, that disgraceful burlesque of railway construction, paid by the metre, had brought him.

While Tewfik Bey (now Tewfik Pasha, of Plevna fame) was at Broussa, Ismaïl Hakki (of Telis renown!) at Ismiat, and another well-known functionary at Angora, Hafiz Pasha was at Sophia. The frauds there as elsewhere, and the vast sums expended on abortive works are well known, and at Sophia Hafiz and Mazhar were the most responsible officials. Matters reached such a point that Kadri Bey (now Pasha) was sent to make an inquest, which resulted in nothing. Mazhar Pasha was then as now a great drinker, and he was also then as now much addicted to an unnatural crime very common in the East.

Faik, his servant, a renegade Greek, of Schengel-Keui on the Bosphorus, formerly one of his "boys," and now his pimp, was made Mouavin, or Vice-President of the Beladirja, at a salary of 1,500 piastres a-month. Taking advantage of a tour through the cazas to inspect the local Beladirja, he brought back it is said 200,000 piastres, and whatever the sum may have been, there is no reason to doubt from his subsequent proceedings here, that he did his best to enrich both himself and his patron.

Shakir Agha, Mazhar's jester, originally a Caikdji, was made Kaïmakam of Isladia.

Mazhar's brother-in-law, Youssouf, was also in Government employ, though I cannot precise his office.

Mazhar's proceedings in the Sophia district are matters of notoriety, and several transactions, such as the procural of ranks and orders through bribery by Sadedin Effendi, the Orkhanieh Kaïmakam, the affair of the Kustendil Kaïmakam (11,000 piastres) made some little local stir.

Shakir Agha and Faik were both in very intimate relations with a dissolute woman, and a son of hers, Kiamal, was through them brought to Mazhar Pasha's notice; he became very much attached to this boy, and in order to ensure his remaining constantly with him, actually did what he had previously promised to other favourites, gave him his daughter in marriage.

Had he not done so Kiemal was to have been succeeded by his brother.

When Sophia was made a vilayet, Mazhar Pasha was confirmed in the appointment of Governor. He became Vali and was decorated with both the Osmanieh and the Medjidieh of the First Class, and he has many influential friends: Nusret, Nashid Ad'met Eyoob, Dervish Sabit, Osman Izzet, Djevdet Pashas, several of whom are said to belong to the same corrupt, abominable school as himself, for it is said to be a regular society or fellowship. Bessim Bey, Mahmoud Bey, Nedjib Pasha, the Band-master, Halit Pasha, and Djevdet Pasha are, I am told, on the best authority, of this clique, and a very powerful one it is, and possessed of great influence even in the Palace.

At the time of the Servian War (the one of 1876) Mazhar Pasha made up greatly, in his fawning flattering way to the Sirdar Ekrem Abdul Kerim Pasha, and through his influence and the expenditure, it is asserted, of 2,500*l.* at Constantinople, he obtained the rank of Muchir.

Subsequently he became Governor-General of Bosnia, and he is accused of having by his secret incitement of the population to resistance, in order to obtain "Palace favour," been in a great measure responsible for the lamentable bloodshed that signalised the Austrian occupation; he remained to the last moment, and undoubtedly you must have already heard very severe criticism on his conduct by those better capable of giving an opinion on this matter than I. Captain Cooper, formerly Vice-Consul in Bosnia, gave me a very bad account of his administration, and confirmed generally what I had heard, and was quite aware from personal experience of his drunken habits.

The Porte sent him a case of decorations for distribution to those of the Bosnians who had distinguished themselves, though whether for those who had done so in the cause of order, or for those who had secretly fomented disorder I cannot say.

Some of these decorations, I hear, were sold.

Temal Bey, his son, received Third Class Medjidieh and Fourth Class Osmanieh.

Kiamil Bey, his "boy," received Fourth Class Medjidieh and Fourth Class Osmanieh.

Faik, his servant, received Fourth Class Medjidieh.

Youssouf, his brother-in-law, received Fourth Class Medjidieh.

Shakir Agha, his jester, received Fourth Class Medjidieh. In the Teskéré appointing him to the Order, he is designated as a "secret police agent," who rendered valuable services.

Husni Effendi, mother of his jesters, &c., was, I believe, decorated. The others were represented as Bosnian Beys, so, at least, I was told by the secretary who wrote

the letters at Zeitoun this summer, in reply to the queries of the Porte as to the distribution of the decorations, the names of the recipients, &c.

Mazhar Pasha was employed at Adrianople at the time of its evacuation by the Russians.

In March of this year he was appointed First Reform Commissioner for the Vilayets of Aleppo and Diarbekir, though subsequently his functions were restricted to introducing reforms in the former vilayet. He brought with him a very numerous staff of Katibs, Mistentaks (?), four who were dismissed by Said Pasha on arrival; the salaries of these gentlemen, exclusive of the First Secretary (5,000 piastres), who was retained, amounted to 14,000 piastres a-month, exclusive of travelling expenses. The staff consisted of Hakki Bey, Husni Effendi (jester), Shakir Agha (jester), Youssouf Effendi (brother-in-law), Temal Bey (son), Kiemal Bey (his "boy" and son-in-law), Faik also with him, and he had besides a very pretty Bosnian boy, who was constantly near him, and as to the relations of whom with his patron there existed no sort of doubt.

By his first residence in Aleppo, a sojourn of twelve days, he succeeded, when by degrees his disgraceful habits of life became known, in establishing a reputation that caused a widespread scandal. A garden party at which boys had danced naked, and on the occasion of which Mazhar was distinctly asserted to have committed an unnatural offence in the garden, was one of the first means of giving a sort of publicity to his doings. He was perpetually drinking, in the day-time cognac, and at night mastic and cognac. Kiemal shared his tent when he could be prevailed on to do so, but they sometimes quarrelled, and Mazhar actually cried once because the boy was unwilling to be reconciled. His son Jemal treated him most unceremoniously, and when father and son were in liquor disgraceful scenes occurred, the son calling the father "presivink" and other opprobrious epithets.

After the episode of the garden party, where a boy, the son of the "Sanduk Emim," or Government Treasurer, had been present, Mazhar attempted to make him one of his staff (the boy cannot read and write, at least sufficiently for official purposes), as Secretary, with a salary of 1,000 piastres a-month. The mother heard of this, and made such a fuss, that the project had to be abandoned. Mazhar had already sent a zaptieh orderly three times to bring the boy to visit him, but on the third occasion the boy's mother had refused to let him go. I can state this with positive certainty on the authority of the family physician, a European, who was good enough to inquire and verify the rumours by reference to the boy's mother.

The story was published in Arabic in the "Journal des Pyramides."

I need not go further into details except to state that this Treasurer, Shawal, was dismissed by Mazhar, and it is notorious that the present one, Yussuf Donati, was appointed on payment of a bribe of 500*l.* This may also be considered certain, for his intimate friend assured me of it in confidence.

In a word, Mazhar was drunken, venal, and steeped in disgusting vices. On his return from Zeitoun another most disgraceful party took place, and as the house and premises borrowed for the occasion belonged to a British subject, the details that have reached me may be taken as coming from a trustworthy source.

His surrounding was naturally as vicious and venal as himself. The Andarin Kaïmakam paid Kiemal for his appointment. The Bab Kaïmakam paid for confirmation. The Elbistan inquiry conducted by Husni Effendi (the jester), who associated with those whose conduct he was sent to inquire into, resulted in nothing, except the reputed remuneration of the jester.

Yussuf Agha, sent to conduct an inquiry into the conduct of the Rum Kaleh Kaïmakam, reported favourably—200*l.*

Money was habitually taken, even to sums in medjidiehs, from petitioners, &c.; and some of his staff even went round the cafés and places of public resort, beating up aspirants for office who were ready to pay for Kaïmakamliks, &c. On leaving, Mazhar Pasha succeeded in getting certificates from Said, Ghalib, Omer (the General), Pashas, and from the Idaré Medjliss.

The two former bitterly regret having given them, but the Turks are habitually easily influenced and over lenient in such matters where a refusal is difficult. Said says he was completely deceived, and that though he merely said he had never seen Mazhar drunk, he has made a mistake, and he blames Ghalib deeply for having allowed him to do such a thing.

My authorities for the above are Said Pasha, Hikmet Bey, and Nourrian Effendi; the latter, however, principally confines himself to saying, "tout ce qu'il y a de plus corrompu," but not being ready to guarantee specific facts.

Said Pasha is convinced of the general correctness of this statement, which he

and Hikmet Bey in his presence furnished to me. He was anxious for me to write a despatch on the subject last September. Hikmet Bey is a good authority, for he is of the same corrupt vicious set and tastes as Mazhar, and he turned King's evidence, as it were, when he saw which way the wind blew. Himself an habitual drunkard, though clever, plausible, and an excellent Secretary, he is positive on the subject of all the more revolting details, and I see no reason to doubt him. He was himself, during Saïd Pasha's visit to Zeitoun, convicted of attempting an unnatural offence on the person of a zaptieh, and was accused of the same with a servant and another man.

For the statements of what took place at Aleppo I give my personal authority, and were it a fitting subject I should be perfectly ready to embody all this in a despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. CHERMSIDE.

No. 40.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 65.)
Foreign Office, January 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatches No. 1155 of the 26th ultimo, and Nos. 35 and 42 of the 7th and 8th instant, relative to the complaints you had received from Mr. J. B. Binns and Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral, relative to the conduct of Husni Effendi, the Defterdar of the province of Angora.

In reply, I have to state to your Excellency that the representations you have made to the Porte, requiring the dismissal of this functionary from the Government service, meets with the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 41.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 29.)

(No. 4. Political. Confidential.)
Beyrout, January 17, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 61 of the 6th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch, No. 2, Confidential, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting certain matters in connection with the state of affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 2. Confidential.)
Beyrout, January 17, 1880.

Sir,

I HAD occasion to mention in my despatches to your Excellency of the 8th November and the 6th December the complaints which are continually reaching me from the Sidon district of the extortion and oppression practised by Yussef Agha-el-Memlouk and Khalil Bey el-Assaad, Kaïmakam of Tyre, and of the support which they receive from the Governor of Beyrout, and even from his Highness the Vali. I am now informed that Midhat Pasha has at last acceded to reiterated petitions for an inquiry into the circumstances of the case, and two delegates, named by his Highness for that purpose, have recently arrived at Sidon.

Unfortunately the proceedings with which these gentlemen have inaugurated their labours seem little calculated to further the ends of justice. Their first step, I am told, was to publish a notice to the effect that, although the charges brought against Yussef Agha and Khalil Bey had been found utterly void of foundation, the Vali had decided to send down two delegates to complete the investigation on the

spot, and all those who had complaints to proffer against the above-named persons were therefore invited to come forward, and give evidence against them.

It is, moreover, affirmed that the chief complainant in the matter had to have direct recourse to the Vali, in order to move these delegates to leave Sidon, and proceed to the Merj Ayoun, to gather evidence in the district where the complaints have always been loudest and gravest. For one of them, I understand, openly stated that if indeed certain irregularities had been committed by Yussef Agha and Khalil Bey, the Government had doubtless been cognizant of them, and that all complaints against them had already been dismissed at the head-quarters of the vilayet.

I need scarcely point out to your Excellency how little value can be placed on the proceedings of a Commission whose members seem to have arrived on the spot with conclusions already made to order, and whose first measures appear to have been inspired by a desire to repress rather than to elicit information, and to shield the offenders, rather than to promote the cause of abstract justice; for it is scarcely to be expected that complaints should be forthcoming against individuals who are declared by their judges, *ab initio*, to be free from all blame.

From Tripoli another case has been reported to me, in which I fear there seems to have been greater anxiety shown to stifle justice than to enlighten it. For some time past the town had been inundated with bad coins, silver medjidiés, and gold 10 fr. and 20 fr. pieces.

The new Chief of the Police at Tripoli, Murad Bey, a man of considerable energy and talent, succeeded finally in tracing the origin of this spurious coinage; and on the 2nd January he invited the Mutessarif, the Military Commandant, and the principal members of the Medjliss, to accompany him on an errand which he would explain to them on the very spot to which he proposed to conduct them.

When they had reached the house of a certain Mustafa Effendi Amana, Chef de Bureau at the Serai, one of the Notables of the town, and a Moslem, intimately connected with the principal Ulemas, Murad Bey gave orders for it to be surrounded, handed to the Mutessarif a statement of the case, and of the evidence of which he was already in possession, and begged to be allowed to search the premises. The Mutessarif hesitated, and declared that it was unlawful to violate the domicile of so respectable a citizen.

A crowd gathered round them, and assumed a threatening attitude towards the police; but Murad Bey quelled the disturbance by arresting one of the ringleaders, an Ulema, and the door of the house was forced. A woman was caught on the threshold who was evidently attempting to escape, and, notwithstanding her shrieks and objurgations, the Military Commandant, at the request of the Chief of Police, tore off her veil, and searched her dress, wherein was promptly discovered a large purse full of bad money, which she endeavoured to make away with. The police at once penetrated into the house, and Murad Bey was so well informed in the matter that he led the way to a vault, in which the woman's husband was discovered in the very act of coining.

This man is Abdel Latif Amana, son of Mustafa Effendi Amana. He was of course arrested, and the very next day the Medjliss heard his case and condemned him to fifteen years' penal servitude. This extraordinary precipitation in the proceedings of justice, whose gait is generally so lame and halt, has naturally been freely commented upon, and, I regret to say, in most unfavourable terms. There seems to be a general conviction that the authorities and the Medjliss hurried through the proceedings in order to stifle the case and to prevent the detection of accomplices, who, to judge from the position and station of the offender, are most likely to be found amongst the influential classes of the Moslem community. The Government indeed affirm that they are making diligent search for the accomplices, but hitherto none have been discovered, or at least arrested.

Whatever strictures the authorities of Tripoli may have rendered themselves liable to by their precipitate and immature action, it is impossible to give sufficient credit to Murad Bey for the skill and determination which he has exhibited in this affair. But it reflects cruelly on the state of demoralization prevalent in official circles that fears are already expressed lest he should in the end suffer for the great zeal which he has shown in the service of justice, and be sacrificed to the vindictiveness of the powerful friends of the Amanas, chief amongst whom is the notorious Dervish Effendi Shumbur. As I have been prevented latterly from going out, owing to ill-health and the inclemency of the season, and have been unable to see Midhat Pasha, I am not aware what action his Highness has thought proper to take in this matter.

With reference to the fiscal operations for the reduction of the land-tax in the

Bekaa, which I reported to your Excellency in my above-mentioned despatch of the 6th December last, I understand that the Vali instructed Muhammed Said Bey, the new Kaimakam of Mualleka, and Mahmoud Bey, to proceed to Baalbec, in order to investigate the complaints brought against the officials of that district; and as I have reason to believe that these gentlemen are both honest and energetic, I trust their labours may be fruitful of good results. Although the severity of the weather has hitherto delayed their movements, their appearance in the district has caused apparently so much alarm amongst the officials implicated in the question, that already the Property Registrar of Baalbec has offered to refund to the agent for the property referred to in my previous Report all the extra fees in which he had been muleted.

The Commissioners also requested this gentleman to give them full information as to the whole transaction with regard both to his own and to other villages which had been obliged to submit to similar abuses.

I expect to hear shortly what results have attended this inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 42.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 17, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch, and its inclosures, from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna, relative to the civil laws recently enacted by the Porte. I also inclose copy of my reply to Mr. Dennis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Smyrna, January* 10, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter from Mr. John Fisher, the English member of the Local Commercial Court in this city, stating that the President of the said Court has recently applied, by order of the Porte, the Civil Code published in June last instead of the Commercial Code hitherto in use.

I have the honour to request instructions on the subject, should your Excellency have any to communicate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. DENNIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Mr. Fisher to Consul Dennis.

Sir, *Smyrna, January* 8, 1880.

I FEEL it a duty to inform you of the following facts:—

I am a member of the Local Commercial Court ("Divani Tijaret") to represent British interests in this town. Up to two months ago the Commercial Code furnished the necessary laws for our decisions on claims between Turks and all other nationalities. Lately in some particular cases the President, Abdul Halem Bey, applied the Civil Code, a new series of laws published in June 1879, and sent to him by the Porte with orders to use the same in preference to the Commercial Code.

I am not prepared to say whether the application of these new laws may prejudice the trade, unless their connection with the Mesjelé (which comprises Sherri and Fetvas) will create objections with those competent to judge the matters. However, and in order to comply with the express desire of my colleagues of foreign nationalities in this Court, I take the liberty to call your attention to this legal incident, and beg you, in answer, to transmit me instructions for my guidance.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) JOHN K. FISHER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 42.

Sir A. H. Layard to Consul Dennis.

Sir, *Constantinople, January* 17, 1880.

IN reply to your despatch of the 10th instant, requesting my instructions in regard to the new civil laws promulgated by the Porte, I have to inform you that the subject is under the consideration of the Heads of Mission here, and that you will receive instructions hereafter. In the meanwhile, you should report to me fully on the subject, and protest at once against any decision under the new laws which may be a violation of the Capitulations or opposed to British interests.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 43.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 82.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 17, 1880.

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL ELDRIDGE has forwarded to your Lordship a copy of his Confidential despatch to me of the 6th ultimo, in which he reports the prevalence of abuses in the administration of the Government of Syria. I may mention that I have had an opportunity of bringing the subject to the notice of Midhat Pasha privately, and that, according to the last accounts from Mr. Eldridge, his Highness has been inquiring into these statements, and that improvement and redress have ensued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 44.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 85.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 18, 1880.

WITH reference to Captain Cooper's despatch No. 15, Confidential, of the 10th ultimo (inclosed in copy), I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have made strong representations as to the conduct of Zia Pasha, and am informed that a Commission of Inquiry into it is to be instituted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 44.

Captain Cooper to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 15: Confidential.)
Sir, *Adana, December* 10, 1879.

BAKER PASHA, accompanied by Suleiman Pasha, Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, Tahir Bey, and other officers, passed Mersina on Friday, the 5th instant, *en route* for Alexandretta and Aleppo.

From what the General told me of the nature of his mission as Inspector-General of reforms, I fear that little good will result, as beyond the right to report to the Sultan direct, Baker Pasha seems to have little power.

2. The execution of any measures he may propose will depend upon the reception they receive at Constantinople, and Baker Pasha seemed to have very grave doubt as to the support he could rely upon at the Palace, where the Sultan is so easily led by his fears; and at the Porte where Osman Pasha is evidently regarded as an obstacle to all reform.

3. The appointment of a foreigner to such a position as Inspector-General of

reforms will stir up all the jealousy of Turkish officialism. The feeling at present animating the provincial authorities is also against the success of any internal attempt at reform. In the course of private conversation yesterday, the Vali of Adana spoke most contemptuously of the present Cabinet. That Zia Pasha, an exile from Constantinople, should speak bitterly is perhaps natural, but the feeling he expressed has been reiterated by almost every Government employé, I have lately seen from the highest to the lowest.

4. Zia Pasha is a clever, unscrupulous man, very ambitious and despotic in his actions. His rule in Adana, though initiating certain improvements in the way of public works, has been marked by some doubtful transactions and arbitrary measures. But in spite of all his faults Zia Pasha seems the only Turkish official I have yet met really capable of doing good to his country.

The state of affairs in Anatolia is very bad: Angora I have already reported on, and even with its energetic Vali, Adana is in a deplorable condition. The administration of the law is the subject of almost universal complaints; public safety is far from assured; the revenue is robbed in every possible way, and the financies are still further crippled by havales, which seize their quarters of all receipts.

5. Zia Pasha has laid great stress on the power and will of the Russians to intrigue, specially referring to their liberal use of money. The allusion was so pointed that I cannot help thinking that Russia is at work in this province.

I was present at Tarsus on Sunday the 7th at the hoisting of the Russian flag at the Vice-Consulate. The ceremony was preceded by a Te Deum at the Greek Church, performed by the Bishop of Adana, in the presence of the Turkish authorities, when the Bishop pronounced a laudatory address on the Czar, finishing by a "Zito" which was heartily responded to by a large congregation.

6. M. Christopher Sidericonder, the unpaid Russian Vice-Consul, resides at Tarsus; he is a shrewd Greek, the leading merchant and manufacturer of Tarsus, and one of the richest men in the province. There are few Russian subjects in the Vilayet of Adana, and no commercial interests beyond the agency of a Russian Steam-ship Company at Mersina. At present, I believe, M. Sidericonder avoids politics, but should it ever be Russian policy to intrigue in this vilayet, she possesses the interest of the most influential man.

The Russian Consul at Aleppo has lately been appointed to the Adana vilayet as well as that of Aleppo, and it is reported that he is coming here soon to spend a few months.

7. English interests have hitherto been unrepresented in Adana, except on occasional visits from the Consul at Mersina, the latter of whom also represents Greece. Since the occupation of Cyprus, England has become a prominent Power in this part of Anatolia, and it would be greatly to her advantage if a Consul were permanently placed in the Adana vilayet. The province is extremely fertile, the mountains are rich in mineral wealth, and in parts there are valuable forests. With the ports of Selefkele, Mersina, and Agas, the only outlets for the trade of a great part of the provinces of Angora, Sivas, and Koniah, in addition to its own, Adana possesses a commercial importance which, with proper development, ought to be second to none in Asiatic Turkey.

Till my arrival the only resident Consul was that of Persia, Mirza Hadi Bey; the French Vice-Consul lives at Mersina. The other Powers are represented by unpaid Vice-Consuls at Mersina or Tarsus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 45.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 86. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 18, 1880.*

THE German Chargé d'Affaires informs me that the complaints which he has received from the Armenian Patriarch of the ill-treatment and oppression to which the Armenians are subjected have been sent by him to his Government, and have been submitted to the Emperor of Germany. By His Imperial Majesty's orders instructions have been sent to him by Prince Bismarck to support, unofficially, any representations that may be made by his colleagues to the Porte on behalf of the Armenians.

Count Radolinski said that he had spoken on the subject to M. Fournier, who, to his surprise, had shown great indifference to the matter, merely observing "qu'ils se fassent Catholiques." He asked me to let him know when I complained to the Porte of the ill-treatment of, or injustice towards, the Armenians, and I might count upon his support, if I considered it useful.

I thanked Count Radolinski for his communication, and promised to let him know when I made any fresh representations to the Porte on the subject, and when his support might prove useful.

I thought it desirable to inform him of the substance of Consul Henderson's despatch of the 24th December of last year (copy transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 18 of the 5th instant) relating to the manner in which the French Consul at Aleppo is forcing the Armenians to become Roman Catholics.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

No. 46.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received January 30.)

(No. 101.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 21, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Chermside on the subject of Baker Pasha's mission to Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 46.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1. Confidential.)
Sir, *Aleppo, January 4, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Baker Pasha and staff arrived here on the 10th December; he was joined a week later by Said Pasha, his Muteshar.

Baker Pasha and staff left for Diarbekir on the 26th December, and I shall follow him as soon as the doctor allows me to leave.

Baker Pasha's staff is numerous and the mission consists of—

Baker Pasha, Ferik; Said Pasha, Liva; Suleiman Pasha, Liva; Tahir Bey; Shakir Bey; Lilmi Bey; Yussuf Bey; a young German named Scheffer; an English Private Secretary; and, I believe, two Turkish Kiatibs or Secretaries.

Said Pasha, formerly a Dragoman of the Porte, has a reputation for honesty and integrity; I have known him at Varna, Toultcha, Osman-Bazar, &c., and he always bore an excellent character for a Turkish official.

If he can stand travelling, his assistance to Baker Pasha in procuring information and statistics, and in explaining or giving opinions on technical administrative details, should prove very valuable.

Suleiman Pasha, a Naval Aide-de-camp of the Sultan, has just been promoted to the rank of Liva. He has been in constant direct communication, by means of cypher telegrams, with the Sultan himself. From his conduct here I can have little doubt that he is very anti-English in his ideas, and his presence can scarcely be deemed a desirable element in the mission, especially from the anomaly of a subordinate on such a mission being in direct correspondence with the Sovereign. The fact of Baker Pasha's having no executive, or his merely wishing to make inquiries, and his great tact, will, I trust, prevent any unpleasantness arising.

Suleiman Pasha, I am told on the very best authority, was speaking disparagingly of his Chief whilst at Aleppo. He was of no assistance to him, only visiting him three or four times. There seems strong ground for the opinion that his presence on the mission is that of a spy on Baker Pasha, and I think there is little doubt that at present he seems likely to take the cue of misrepresenting and discrediting British action and influence in the country as much as possible. As yet, however, I cannot be certain of the accuracy of these surmises.

Of the rest of the staff it is not necessary for me to speak. Baker Pasha has very great confidence in Shakir Bey, who has been with him for a long time. The staff is perhaps inconveniently numerous for travelling purposes.

During his stay in Aleppo, Baker Pasha seemed to form his ideas as to the state of the country wonderfully quickly and correctly, and to take into account the practical, financial, and other difficulties of the situation. He intends to send a Report from each vilayet and then a general Report. His action in supporting the cases of some Moslems produced a good effect.

I have communicated to your Excellency already, in a private letter, his ideas on gendarmerie, statistics, public works, public instruction, agriculture.

I am not aware if he has yet forwarded his Report for the Aleppo vilayet, but if so, after conversation with the Pasha, I will forward a despatch on the subject. At Aleppo he was most anxious to avoid any semblance of interference with Said Pasha, and exhibited his usual tact and prudence. Said Pasha is not very hopeful as to the results of the mission. The information it can collect, exclusive of course of the valuable military Report a personal inspection of the country will enable Baker Pasha to write, might, he thinks, be easily at once furnished without a mission, and action taken without the delay that awaiting the Reports of the mission will entail.

I have learnt confidentially that the letters to Governors-General furnished to Baker Pasha merely mention that he has come to inspect gendarmerie.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. CHERMSIDE.

No. 47.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 30.)

(No. 104.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, January 21, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches on matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Erzeroum, Van, Trebizond, Bagdad, and Adana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 1. Political.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, January 2, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the 22nd ultimo Mehemet Chaoush, the representative of the five villages of Baskeui, Algeran, Bolan, Halbizon, and Sherinon, in the district of Keghi, reported that the Court of First Instance had decided to adjourn the case now being tried, between Ismail Bey and the villages aforesaid.

This case, as you are aware, is a claim on the part of the villages for restoration of territory said to have been wrongfully taken possession of by Ismail Bey. The Defendant produced a document in support of his claim, which was proved by the Turkish Commissioners to be false, and the reason given by the Court on the 22nd for the adjournment was that they were unable to decide on the genuineness of the document, and must send it to the Sheikh-ul-Islam at Constantinople.

It appeared to be so evident a subterfuge for gaining time that, after consulting with Hussein Effendi, one of the Sub-Commissioners, I decided to protest to the Vali against the course about to be taken, while he also made a protestation to the Court. I immediately wrote to the Vali the letter of which a translation is here inclosed, and the next day I telegraphed to you as follows:—

"The document produced by Ismail Bey to support his claim against Mehemet Chaoush was declared false by the Commissioners. The Court now finds itself incompetent to decide on the validity of this document, and would send it to the Sheikh-ul-Islam at Constantinople. This is a pretext for gaining time. The President of the Court died last week, and the present man, Riza Bay, is known to protect

Ismail. I have protested to the Governor-General in writing, Hussein Effendi similarly to the Court, and has telegraphed Commissioners."

I am happy to inform you that these remonstrances have not been without result. The Vali laid my letter before the Court, which thereupon revoked its former decision, and Riza Bey, the President, who has the reputation of being partial to the Beys, has been temporarily removed. I trust the case will now be proceeded with without further delay, and that the course I have taken meets with your approval.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 47.

Captain Everett to the Governor-General of Erzeroum.

(Translation.)
Excellency,

Erzeroum, December 23, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Bidayet Medjliss have decided yesterday to adjourn the case now being tried between Ismail Bey and Mahmed Chaoush, representative for the five villages of Bashkeui, Alydran, Bolan, Halbizon, and Sherinon, in the district of Keghi.

The reasons alleged for this adjournment are that the Court does not feel itself competent to decide on the validity of a certain document which has been produced by Ismail Bey in support of his claim, and that therefore it will be necessary to refer the matter to the Sheikh-ul-Islam at Constantinople.

I beg to point out to your Excellency that the document in question has been most carefully examined by the Imperial Commissioners and condemned by them as false. Seeing that the Commissioners were appointed by His Majesty the Sultan as men fully competent to decide on any questions that might be brought to their notice, and seeing that they unanimously declared the document to be false, it appears to me that there can be no occasion for the Bidayet Medjliss to waste the valuable time in discussing a point which has been already settled by so high an authority.

I will not enter here into details. Briefly, the document affirms that a certain Hassan Razi (who has been dead ten years) went six months ago to the Council of Keghi, and reporting himself to be the delegate of the sandjak, declared the lands in question to belong to Ismail Bey; the document is dated ten years ago.

I have not the honour to be acquainted with either the President or the members of the Bidayet Medjliss, but without knowing them I may, I think, confidently assert they could hardly consider for one moment as genuine a document which relates how a man gave evidence in a Court of Justice nine years and six months after his death, and which is dated nine years and six months before it was written.

Under these circumstances I am at a loss to understand the conduct of the Bidayet Medjliss. Fully aware of the wish of His Majesty the Sultan, of the Commissioners, of your Excellency, and of the people concerned, that these long-standing cases should be brought to a conclusion, I can only comprehend the Medjliss delaying these cases for some reasonable cause.

The present cause, unless I am mistaken in the facts, and I should be only too glad to be corrected, is, in my opinion, and I am equally sure in the opinion of your Excellency, perfectly unreasonable and inexcusable. It is for your Excellency to take what steps you think fit, but I trust that you will not permit, or that at least you will protest against, the execution of a measure only calculated to delay justice and to bring ridicule on the Tribunal of Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 47.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 2. Political.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, January 2, 1880.

THE inclosed petition has been forwarded to me from Bayazid, and if not exaggerated, describes a very painful state of things. I am afraid there is a great deal of truth in it. The Armenian Bishop has received a letter couched in similar terms.

I at once informed the Vali, and asked him what he intended to do. I regret to have to tell you that the means at his disposal for alleviating the distress are next to nil. He himself anticipates a serious want of wheat later in the winter, but he is powerless either to make preparations against the coming evil, or to give immediate aid, for the Local Government possesses no funds, and he dares not apply to the Porte for money. The Vali does not like frankly to admit this fact, but from the other members of the Medjliss I am well informed upon this point. Nevertheless, he feels it necessary to take some action, however feeble, and yesterday he telegraphed to the Porte for permission to use, for purposes of relief, 400 somars of wheat from the Government stores at Chanous, and 600 somars from those at Baiburt.

These measures are next door to useless, because it is impossible for the sufferers, who are many of them wanting in cattle, to go such a distance as from Bayazid to Baiburt to fetch it, while Chanous, though nearer in distance, is only approached at this time of year with difficulty. The situation, therefore, is desperate.

Unless some means are found of transporting flour to the villages, I anticipate a great catastrophe before this winter is over, and it has to be remembered also that scarcely a grain of wheat has been sown this autumn in the suffering districts.

In spite of the present distress and in spite of the orders supposed to have been sent by the Vali to the Mutessarif, begging him not to press the poor, it appears that taxes for the past three years are being collected. I have not the slightest hope of such oppression being put a stop to. The vilayet has been and still is endeavouring to comply with the demands of the Porte for money. Everywhere the zaptiehs are busy in the villages collecting every piastre that they can lay their hands on, and I have no doubt the Mutessarif of Bayazid has his orders to do the same.

There is yet another evil to be feared. There are many Kurdish villages where the scarcity of wheat is very great. When the inhabitants of these villages see starvation staring them in the face they will hardly remain passive. Well armed, it is not unlikely that they will organize raids and take by force what they cannot procure lawfully.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 47.

Petition from the People of Bayazid.

(Translation.)
Most Eminent British Vice-Consul,

Humble and tearful petition in the name of God and in the name of mankind's salvation.

YOUR Eminency has already taken into consideration all the misfortunes of our country caused by the last war, and you are also aware of its situation by means of petitions and information given you by the people. We have no time left to think on those things which are passed, they are, indeed, forgotten; for death has spread now over us his black veil, filling all the houses with cries of hunger and tears of blood, which hides under the same the old and the young, the children, the widowers, and the widows. But who are the harbingers of death, want, and hunger? As in Egypt so here; there is no house without some one dying or insane from hunger. Different, indeed, from what you saw when you visited us. The food of the inhabitants has been till now roots of plants, leaves of cabbages, and bread made with beans and water-mosses, from which some men have been poisoned. But the winter has now deprived the people even of such nourishment. It is forbidden to bring wheat from Persia, from Russia, from Mush, Van, or Boolanik.

However, the order has been received to give wheat to the people from the Government stores which down here contain but little; moreover, it is given only to the rich, and the weeping populace remain starving because it does not possess money. Notwithstanding the bad situation of the people, the taxes for three years are now severely and cruelly demanded without giving us any time to find the money.

Sir, how long must we wash out our blood with our tears? We are not worthy of the mercy of the Government or of the assistance of your Eminency, which you promised us and which we now wait for!

Many other oppressed people have been lately found worthy of mercy and help from the Governments of Europe. Are the people of Bayazid to be abandoned

for ever? they who have been once cut down by the sword of the enemy, and are now stricken by that of death!

For the name of Gospel help us! help us for God's sake! help to that fallen and destroyed Church of Jesus!

Bayazid, December 6, 1879.

(Signed by 43 Armenians, three of them are priests, one is the Chief Priest.)

Inclosure 5 in No. 47.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 28. Political.)
Sir, *Van, December* 16, 1879.

I AM glad to be able to report an improvement in the prospects here for the winter as regards the supply of food. The favourable weather we have enjoyed during the last three weeks has produced a considerable fall in the price of wheat, as those who have hitherto held back their stores in anticipation of scarcity next year and still higher prices, are now bringing their corn into the market in view of a good harvest next season. The Reform Commissioners have also been examining the question of the supply of food, and have taken certain steps to provide for the needs of the villagers as well as of the people of the city. At the same time the price of wheat is still exceedingly high, between 80 and 90 piastres silver per chap, and there is certain to be great distress among the poor before the end of the winter.

But I am sorry to say the general aspect of affairs here is not encouraging.

However willing the Commissioners may be to labour for the improvement of the state of the country, their powers are but limited, as they have to refer to Constantinople every matter which may involve expenditure, and the whole weight of the Mussulman influence, official and non-official, being cast into the scale in opposition to any change in the existing state of affairs, I feel absolutely certain that their presence will produce little or no practical result. There is among the officials the strongest possible aversion to giving, I will not say assistance in times of hardship and distress, but the commonest justice and protection to the Christians.

A few days ago a disturbance took place in the bazaar here. A chaoush had a dispute with a shopkeeper, and drawing his sword flew at him; the neighbouring Armenian shopkeepers came to the assistance of their fellow, and other soldiers came to the assistance of their comrade, and a riot took place, but without any serious damage being done. I yesterday paid a visit to the Vali and asked what steps were being taken to punish the originator of the disturbance, and both he and the Ferik Pasha, who was present, assured me that the chaoush was in prison, and would be punished, though as it afterwards appeared, they knew full well that such was not the case. I went from the Vali to see Yussuf Pasha, and whilst with him my dragoman came to me and informed me that he had been to the bazaar, and that the chaoush had been there again and threatened to kill the shopkeeper, who was with difficulty saved from him. Yussuf Pasha said he had heard of this, but that the Colonel of the chaoush's regiment had declared to him, in the presence of the Vali and Samih Pasha, that it was a different chaoush whom he, the Colonel, had sent to the bazaar, at the request of the first who was in prison, to obtain some money due to him. Yussuf Pasha promised to have the affair investigated. Inquiries made to-day have established not only that it was really the original chaoush who was released from prison and attacked the shopkeeper the second time, but also that he was released by order of Samih Pasha. It is evident, therefore, that the Vali, Samih Pasha, and the Ferik, all combined to defeat justice. A Commission has been formed to-day to examine into the affair, but in all probability some way will be found of shielding the culprit from punishment. Such is the way justice is done here, especially when the sufferers are Armenians.

Complaints reach me from all sides of the conduct of the troops in the villages. There have been great movements of troops lately in consequence of the dismissal to their homes of the redifs and their replacement by nizams. On their marches they seem to have ill-treated the villagers in every direction, demanding provisions and supplies of all sorts, giving vouchers for only a small part of what they took, and beating the villagers if their demands were not satisfied. This necessity for giving supplies to troops on the march presses very heavily on the villages which happen to be situated on the main lines of roads. A deputation of villagers came to me two

days ago from the village of Nurkuk, four hours from here, on the Bashkala road. They said that nine days ago a battalion on the march to Van came to their village and demanded all sorts of things that they could not supply, and insulted their women. Two villagers went to the Colonel to complain, but he said "What do you mean by setting yourselves against us; you think you can do so because there are Consuls at Van," and ordered them to be beaten. I told them to present their case to the Government and Commissioners, and that I would try and see that justice was done them.

The Government is also pressing the villagers very hard for taxes. Many villages contributed considerable quantities of stores to the Government during the war besides their regular taxes, and now that a fresh demand is made upon them, although they have already paid taxes for this year, they wish to have these stores set off against what is demanded from them, as they have this year barely enough to support themselves, much less to pay extra taxation; but their petition was not entertained by the Government. The Commissioners, however, have had their case in consideration, and have ordered the collection of the fresh taxation to be suspended until the matter can be investigated, and I hope that means may be found for relieving the people from this burden, though I am much afraid, when I remember the financial difficulties of the Government and the unwillingness of the local authorities to do anything for Christians.

Altogether, I do not think the prospect of reform here at present a bright one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 6 in No. 47.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 20. Political. Private.)
Sir, *Van, December* 17, 1879.

THE day before yesterday I had some private conversation with Serkis Effendi, the Second Reform Commissioner, and asked him what power the Commissioners had of introducing reforms without referring to Constantinople. He replied that they had power to remove Kaïmakams, to introduce changes in the system of collecting taxation, and in one or two other matters; but that any question involving expenditure must be referred to Constantinople. He also said that the Commissioners had had to report that the troops were even worse than the Kurds in their behaviour. He seemed to be profoundly discouraged at the aspect of affairs here, and not to have hope of the Commission being able to effect much, saying that very much required to be done, but that there was no "bonne volonté" on the part of the authorities here, and that the prospect was "désespérant." He said that the Vali had lied to them about five different matters since they had been here, and, as a proof of the difficulty of getting anything done, said that although they had ordered grain to be sold to the villagers from the Government stores three or four days ago, yet the Defterdar had not yet carried out their orders, causing delays on various pretexts, with the desire to avoid compliance until the bad weather set in, when prices would go up and he could make greater gains. He cares not at all that meanwhile the people of Mirduz, Shaddakh, &c., are on the point of starving, and that when the bad weather sets in it will be very difficult, if not impossible, to transport provisions to those districts.

Samih Pasha is going to remain here for the winter, which I regret, as his influence over the Vali is very great (the latter being afraid of him), and not exercised, I fear, for good.

Whilst writing this letter I have received a visit from the Armenian Archbishop, who informed me that communications have come from the Porte asking whether it is true that famine exists here and that wholesale deaths have occurred from starvation. As I have written in a previous despatch, the prospects have improved during the last three weeks, but great distress will certainly exist during the winter, especially in the mountainous districts of Nurduz, Shaddakh, &c., unless aid is speedily given to them. I have heard of isolated cases of death from starvation, but certainly not of wholesale loss of life; it will not be till the stress of winter sets in that such is to be feared.

The ex-Patriarch Chrimian arrived here a fortnight ago, and I understand has been preaching patience and moderation to the Armenians, saying that they ought not to be calling for Russia or England to take possession of their country, but that

they ought to look forward to and desire a life of peace and friendliness with all races in the land, under their Sovereign the Sultan, and under the improved government he hoped would be obtained for them by the exertions of England and the European Powers. He is very much beloved, and his words will, no doubt, have a great influence on the Armenians in the city, but will hardly be able to reach the peasantry, who are most anxious for the arrival of the Russians, suffering, as they do, much more from Turkish misrule than the inhabitants of the town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 7 in No. 47.

Vice-Consul Marengo to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Trébizonde, le* 21 *Décembre*, 1879.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence qu'il y a environ une vingtaine de jours le bruit avait couru ici que les Arméniens Catholiques d'Artwin demandèrent à émigrer en Turquie, et qu'ils avaient adressée au Gouvernement Impérial une requête demandant un territoire et les facilités pour passer en Turquie; cette rumeur ayant pris une certaine consistance je voulus m'informer des raisons qui auraient poussé cette population à vouloir émigrer.

Il y a quelques jours arriva ici un habitant d'Artwin digne de confiance et parti intéressé dans cette question, qui m'a fourni tous les renseignements désirés.

Il paraitrait qu'une partie des Arméniens Catholiques ayant pour Chef un certain Pautchinian n'ont pas voulu se naturaliser sujets Russes, et ont conservé leur nationalité Ottomane. Un autre parti naturalisé Russe, ayant pour Chef un certain Pilayan, lequel Pilayan avait eu gain de cause dans une affaire d'un immeuble contesté par Pautchinian, s'étaient irrités les uns les autres et en étaient venus aux mains et aux armes; et une véritable bataille aurait eu lieu si l'autorité Russe n'était pas intervenue.

Pautchinian et son parti n'ayant aucune autorité pour faire valoir leurs droits, adressèrent alors une requête au Gouvernement Impérial, demandant la nomination d'un Consul Ottoman à Artwin pour protéger leurs intérêts. Jusqu'aujourd'hui aucune réponse n'est venue confirmer la nomination d'un Consul à Artwin, qui est cependant d'une grande nécessité pour la tranquillité des sujets Ottomans résidant dans cette province.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) MARENGO.

Inclosure 8 in No. 47.

Acting Consul-General Robertson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 161.)
Sir, *Baghdad, December* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that Saïd Pasha, lately Governor of El Hasa, has been removed from that post, and that Saïd Bey, a man of better parts, has been appointed by the Governor-General of Busreh to succeed him as Acting Governor pending confirmation by the Porte.

Saïd Bey was Governor of El Hasa in 1876 and the early part of 1877, and he succeeded in keeping the district undisturbed and in acquiring the good-will of the people. Before leaving Busreh on the 10th instant, he telegraphed to request me to recommend him to Her Majesty's Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, which I did in a telegram as follows:—

"Saïd Bey left Busreh for Hasa by "Punjaub" to replace Saïd Pasha as Governor. He requests to be recommended to you. I am happy to do so."

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. J. C. ROBERTSON.

Inclosure 9 in No. 47.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 1. Political.)

Adana, January 7, 1880.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 29th September, 1879, I reported that the inhabitants of Shahr, a village in the Hadjinkaza of the Kozan (Sis) sandjak, had been turned out of their fields. On arrival here at end of November I heard that the villagers were still deprived of their lands, and that lately certain unwelcome intruders had established themselves in Shahr.

I brought this matter to the notice of his Excellency Zia Pasha, who immediately referred it to Sis. Rather doubting the action of the local authorities I went to Sis, where I found the Mutessarif had not previously heard of the affair, and had simply called for a report on receipt of the Vali's memorandum.

I accordingly went on to Hadjin; the Kaïmakam there had only arrived within the fortnight, but the Cadi knew all about the matter, and was apparently the cause of delay in settling the Shahr difficulty. However, he promised immediately to forward the decision of the Medjliss in the villagers favour to the Kaïmakam, and the latter was going to execute it at once, so that I hope by this time the fields are restored to their owners, and the intruders turned out of Shahr.

2. The Vali had asked me to urge the inhabitants of Hadjin to provide funds for a doctor, and the Mutessarif had added that he wanted help for post, telegraph, and road.

At Hadjin I saw the principal inhabitants, and they agreed to provide posts for the telegraph if Government would find the wire and skilled labour necessary for the construction. I am afraid that in the present exhausted state of the Treasury this help cannot be given, as there is great difficulty in finding means, even for the repair of existing lines; and though the authorities at Féké, the neighbouring kaza, are willing to co-operate, the Hadjin telegraph must remain for more prosperous times.

Both at Hadjin and Féké there were urgent appeals made for a post, and since my return to Adana, Zia Pasha has promised to see if a weekly messenger cannot be established between Sis, Féké, and Hadjin.

The inhabitants of Hadjin were not very ready to come forward in support of a doctor, the Municipality only offering £ T. 3 per month, but the matter was to be reconsidered, and probably by the help of some of the richer men a sufficient sum would be guaranteed to induce a doctor to settle in Hadjin.

The Moslem inhabitants begged that a Hodja might be found for their children, and one will probably be sent from Adana.

I have mentioned the above points at some length, as most of them were referred to in the petition presented by the Armenians last September, and to show that the Vali, Zia Pasha, is apparently doing something towards the material improvement of his vilayet.

3. The head-quarters of a battalion of infantry and about 600 men are quartered at Féké. They were sent thus after the Kozan open rebellion of 1878, and have nothing in the world to do. The Bimbashi has been employing his men in cleaning up round the barracks, and would set them on road-making if allowed. Zia Pasha is going to apply to the Seraskiat for an order to employ the men on a road between Hadjin, Féké, and Sis, and it would be a real service to the country if this application were supported at Constantinople, as without support Zia Pasha anticipates a refusal.

At present Hadjin, the centre of a large district, can only communicate with Adana by narrow mountain tracks, but there are no obstacles which a little skill and labour could not overcome; and, as far as I can judge from a hasty inspection, a carriage-road could be made with comparative ease from Adana by Sis to Hadjin and Shahr (the ruins of Comana), which could probably be continued by Azizieh to Sivas.

Such a road would be of immense advantage to the Turkish authorities in the event of renewed insurrection in the Kozan-Dagh, and by opening up a new country, would be of great value to commerce.

4. Public security was greater than when I visited Hadjin in the autumn. This is partly due to the cold weather and snow, and partly to the efforts made to capture Teh Tashak, for whose apprehension Zia Pasha had offered £ T. 150. When in Kozan I heard that this brigand and his ally, Khodja Bey, of Azizieh, were deserted by their men, and in hiding on the borders of Kaisarieh, and since my return to Adana the Vali has informed me of the capture of Teh Tashak in Azizieh.

5. The country north of Sis is a very beautiful mountain region fairly wooded and watered. It is sparely inhabited by a well-to-do race of farmers, but suffers during spring and autumn from the passage of the nomads, who winter in the Tchokom Ova (Cilician Plain) and spend the summer in the interior of Anatolia.

The Porte has recently sent Akif Pasha to try and settle the nomads in the Tchokom Ova, but that official is not doing any good. All complain of him; the nomads for interfering, the regular inhabitants for claiming lands as vakouf which are private property, and proposing abortive schemes of settlement; and the local authorities for making a fuss and doing nothing.

The question is one of great importance and difficulty, and unless the nomads can be dealt with liberally, had much better be left alone. Arrangements might be made so as to mitigate the evils of the passage of the tribes and herds, and there are few complaints as to the summer encampments which could not be promptly settled on the spot if the Mutessarif and the Kaïmakam were worth their salt. The very move twice a-year might be made a source of revenue to the roads if a light toll were levied. This tax would be no hardship considering the damage the passage of large herds does to any path, whilst, by enabling the paths to be repaired, the actual transit would be facilitated.

The nomads live by their herds and flocks. These must winter in the south as the nomads do not lay in any supply of winter forage. And on the other hand, the absence of water, the swarms of flies, and the great heat of summer, prevent the nomads spending the whole year in the Tchokom Ova.

6. The penury of the Government was more visible in the Kozan sandjak than any I have yet seen. Neither Mutessarif, officials, nor zaptiehs had received their pay for the last six months. Since my return, an order has been issued to pay all employés two months salaries. This is only a sop. Ruin is on the Government, and every one knows it. Oriental apathy is giving way; the cry now is every man for himself; and it speaks well for Arshad Bey, the Mutessarif, that he should be as badly off as his subordinates.

In the Kozan sandjak by this year's budget, only bedel askerié and emlak are left to meet local requirements. These taxes will not produce an adequate sum, and some expenses must be unpaid. The question everywhere is, "What will the end be?" It is too late now to introduce reforms in the provinces unless radical changes take place at Constantinople.

7. In the Adana vilayet, as a rule, religious and national animosities are not virulent, but at Sis and Hadjin the Armenians are showing a disposition which may in time cause serious difficulty. At Sis the Armenians have always enjoyed a certain amount of protection from the Catholics, and though the present Catholics do not reside at Sis, the spirit of independence nurtured by former protection still exists. At Hadjin the population is almost entirely Armenian, who, from their surroundings, have developed into a sturdy turbulent clan. Both at Sis and Hadjin the inhabitants are being stirred by ideas of Armenian nationality. The Zeitoun business has been much commented on, and the Armenian Societies of Constantinople are busy fostering the "sentiment of nationality." At Hadjin I was surprised by the visit of an Armenian and his wife, who described themselves as schoolmaster and mistress, but who in tolerable French complained of the hard fate which placed them in such an out-of-the-way town, and at the same time grumbled at the conduct of the British Government, which had trampled on the feelings of all Armenians by nominating a Consul to Kurdistan. These people were very fair specimens of the class who are now actively engaged fostering a spirit of discontent amongst the Armenians, and if their endeavours meet with success, they will not only make the situation of the Porte more critical than it is, but they will inevitably render any future settlement of Asia Minor more difficult than ever.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 48.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 79. Secret. Most Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 86, Very Confidential, of the 18th ultimo, in which you report that the German Representative at the Porte has

been instructed to give his support unofficially to any representation that may be made to the Turkish Government by the Representatives of other Powers on behalf of the Armenians.

You notice at the same time the indifference shown to the subject by the French Ambassador, and the efforts made by the French Consul at Aleppo to bring pressure to bear upon the Armenian population of that district with the object of inducing them to transfer their allegiance in spiritual matters to the Church of Rome.

Previous reports from your Excellency show that on other occasions a similar spirit has been shown by M. Fournier and by the French Agents in the Ottoman dominions.

I have suggested to you, by telegraph, that if any opportunity should occur for making it evident that in your representations on behalf of the Armenian subjects of the Sultan you have the support of the German Chargé d'Affaires, the French Government would probably feel it necessary to give instructions to their Representative to adopt a more equitable and less hostile course. I do not, however, of course mean to imply that you should resort to any extreme measures for the purpose of securing this object, or that your representations should be pushed beyond the point which the circumstances may seem of themselves to justify.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 49.

Musurus Pasha to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 3 *Février*, 1880.

My Lord,

JE m'empresse de transmettre, ci-joint, à votre Excellence, copie d'une dépêche télégraphique du Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de la Sublime Porte, et qui m'annonce la nomination de deux des officiers Anglais engagés par contrat au poste d'Inspecteur-Général de la Gendarmerie des Vilayets de Betlis et d'Erzéroum.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

Constantinople, le 3 *Février*, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

LES Officiers Norton et Coope, qui ont été précédemment engagés par contrat au service du Gouvernement Impérial, ont été nommés cette fois-ci, l'un au Vilayet de Betlis, et l'autre au Vilayet d'Erzéroum, en qualité d'Inspecteur-Général de la Gendarmerie de ces deux vilayets. Ils quitteront incessamment Constantinople. Très-probablement ils s'embarqueront Vendredi, 6 Février (v.s.), pour leur destination.

No. 50.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 124.)

Constantinople, January 27, 1880.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Consul at Smyrna forwarded to this Embassy, in the month of October last, a Report which had been addressed to him by the British Consular Agent at Magnesia, relative to acts of brigandage and murder which appear to have been committed in the vicinity of that town. Mr. Malet brought these statements to the notice of the Porte, and I have now the honour to inclose copy of a Report, and its inclosures, from the Vali of Aidin on the subject, which has been confidentially communicated to me by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 50.

Note addressed by the Vali of Aidin to the Prime Minister, communicated confidentially to Mr. Murinich.

(Translation.)

THE note of your Highness dated the 15th Tel-Hadji, 1296, informs me that the British Consular Agent of Magnesia reported to the British Embassy cases of brigandage and murder occurring last September in that neighbourhood, and orders that inquiries should be made to ascertain the truth, that robbery should be put down in those parts, and that all care should be taken to insure public security; and, moreover, your Highness' telegram of earlier date requests inquiries to be made concerning reports of certain disturbances at Ak-Hissar, communicated to the British Embassy by the Consular Agent of that place.

The matter was referred to the Mutessarif of Sarokhan, that he should go in person to make inquiries.

The inquiries the Mutessarif made at Ak-Hissar and Magnesia are communicated on the accompanying paper, and he adds that all necessary steps are being taken to stop disturbances.

(Signed) HANDI, *Vali of Aidin.*

14 *Mouharrem*, 1297 (*December* $\frac{15}{27}$, 1879).

Inclosure 2 in No. 50.

Note addressed to the Vilayet of Aidin by the Mutessarif of Sarokhan.

(Translation.)

IN accordance with orders, I have examined into the matters reported to the British Embassy in August last by the Consular Agent of that place, and, as will be seen by the accompanying paper, all except two are untrue.

The perpetrators of the two crimes are in course of examination, and will be tried in due time.

No such affairs are occurring in the sandjak, but all care is taken to insure security.

(Signed) Mutessarif of Sarokhan.

Inclosure 3 in No. 50.

Note addressed by the Mutessarif of Sarokhan to the Vali of Aidin, communicated confidentially to Mr. Marinich.

(Translation.)

I WENT in person to Ak-Hissar, and found that one person called Vasil had been killed; but other matters—such as certain disorderly persons traversing the country, and taking both Christian and Turkish women from their houses, and such as the Government not being able to prevent them—I found entirely untrue. The murderers of the man Vasil are captured, and are being sent to the sandjak for trial. The disturbances have arisen in the time of the late Kaimakam, therefore he has been changed.

The zaptieh officer of Kara-Agatch, Miserli Mehemed Agha, has been transferred to Ak-Hissar. The Mudir and clerks of Ebni Nahié, in the Ashme Caza, have been transferred to the Mermerejik Nahié, which was formerly a Mudirlik, and is an important place. And as this nahié was formerly under the care of a "chnoush" and six zaptiehs, a guard-house has been built at the spot called "Cherkes Mezari," and a chnoush, an onbashi, and ten men have been stationed there. Thus, both judicially and administratively, security is provided, and no such occurrences can occur for the future; moreover, the new Kaimakam is showing great zeal in his new capacity.

(Signed) Mutessarif of Sarokhan.

December 27, 1879.

Inclosure 4 in No. 50.

Refutation by Turkish Authorities of Cases of Brigandage and Murders in the months of August and September, reported by British Consular Agency, Magnesia, September 28, 1879.

(Translation.)

1. ABOUT two hours from Magnesia, at a place named Kilik Chiflik, nine Zeibecks tried to exact from the servant of M. Barnderli, merchant of Smyrna, 300 liras Turkish, through Schech Effendi, of Carougtanian, about twenty-five minutes from the village of Chobamisa.

Inquiries have been made, and neither in Magnesia nor in the place itself is anything known of the occurrence.

2. From Magnesia, two hours distant, at the chiflik of M. Baliosoghi, five or six brigands attempted to steal sesame seed; and, in trying to protect their master's property, one servant was killed, and two dangerously wounded.

Last August, whilst four or five Roumelian refugees were shooting near the said farm, a quarrel arose between them, and the servants and one of the latter was killed, and one of the refugees was wounded. This one was taken and examined, the rest escaped. A search is being made for them.

3. Two hours from Magnesia, at a place called Ak-Bounar, travellers on the way to the village of Ureni were stopped by brigands and robbed.

The zaptiehs knew nothing of this, and though inquiries have been made again, still nothing has been heard about it.

4. One and a half hours from Magnesia, at a village called Kara-Agatch, nine horses were stolen during the night belonging to Mahmoud Bey. At the same place a traveller also was robbed of his horse.

Some time ago a horse was stolen from the said village; it was heard, and inquiries were made to no effect, and the proprietor also applied to the Government.

5. Two hours from Magnesia a person named Ismaïl, while ploughing, saw strangers entering his stable, and, upon going forward to see, found three of his bullocks stolen.

A man called Ismaïl did lose three cows, and after searching for them found them; but no complaints have been made of any robbery.

6. Six hours from Magnesia, at the village named Saïd Ora, a villager who was lying sick in his stable was robbed of 30 medjids, two pistols, and his clothes.

From inquiries and information given by the Moukhtars, no such event has occurred.

7. Opposite the Ghediz an Arab killed a shepherd.

A certain shepherd allowed his flocks to enter and damage the cotton-fields and meadows of Gurek Oglou Ali, in the village of Hadji Rahmanli; the Arab guard in the fields fired his pistol and killed the shepherd. The Arab (Selim) is at present in custody, and has been referred to the Court.

8. A person travelling from Magnesia to Ghioucr Keui was robbed of his horse.

Although it was rumoured that a horse had been stolen by the gardes champêtres, inquiries were made, and the rumour was found to be incorrect.

9. One hour and a half from Magnesia brigands entered the farm of Espudji Hadji Ahmed, and robbed him of five mares.

It is true that while the horses were out at night two mares and a horse were lost, and neither from the servant or the master was information given that they had been stolen.

(Signed) Major of Police of Sarokhan.

December $\frac{9}{21}$, 1879.

No. 51.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 128. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 27, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 82 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from a letter which has been received from Vassif Effendi, the Directeur Politique of Syria, and a gentleman in the confidence of Midhat Pasha, on some matters connected with the judicial and fiscal administration of that province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 51.

Vassif Effendi Clician to Mr. Nicolson

(Private.)

(Extrait.) *Beyrout, le* 19 *Janvier*, 1880.

C'EST avec empressement que je prends la plume pour vous signaler que l'enquête commencée à Balbek, à la suite des réclamations contre les employés du Cadastre, vient de démontrer que les abus les plus incroyables ont été faits, et que les complices sont nombreux. Le Pacha a ordonné que l'enquête soit faite très-minutieusement, et pour avoir les coudées franches de pouvoir agir le moment venu, il vient d'adresser un Rapport à la Sublime Porte pour la mettre au courant et démontrer qu'il sera impossible d'arriver à gouverner, s'il ne pourra punir sévèrement les fautifs. L'autre enquête, au sujet des menées d'un certain Youssaf Mamchuk continue, mais rien pour le moment.

Sachez pourtant que journellement des réclamations affluent sur la mauvaise marche des Tribunaux et sur les abus qui s'y commettent, et je crois qu'il ne se passera pas longtemps que nous verrons l'anarchie générale dans la Magistrature. Cela, grâce à l'indépendance que l'on vient de leur octroyer. C'est une fatalité. Il faut aussi que je vous confesse franchement que cet état de choses malheureuses ne pourra pas durer longtemps, et le Pacha se voit dans la nécessité de redemander définitivement sa démission, car il ne désire point prendre la responsabilité de ce qui peut et pourra ressortir de toutes les complications que feront surgir ces soi-disants réformes et ordres, et prétendues améliorations dont on se vante d'avoir exécuté. Tout s'est centralisé à Constantinople; rien ne peut se faire ici. Je pense que vous comprendrez combien la position et la situation est pénible pour Son Altesse et combien il faut de patience pour ne pas s'enrager.

No. 52.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 132.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 28, 1880.

COLONEL COOPE has received orders to proceed to Erzeroum, and Colonel Norton to Bitlis, "to inspect the gendarmerie" in those vilayets. In the instructions given to the former, which I have seen, he is intentionally called "Mr. Coope," no rank in the Turkish army being accorded to him. He has asked for travelling expenses in the discharge of his duties, to which he says he is entitled by his contract, but Osman Pasha, to whom he went for instructions, refused to authorize their payment, and was not disposed to treat him with much civility. I fear that there is no serious intention on the part of the Minister of War to avail himself of the services of these officers, and that they are merely sent on their present missions in order to enable the Porte to say that they are employed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 53.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 6. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, January* 31, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch No. 8 which

I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting further on certain matters in connection with the present state of affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Beyrout, January 31, 1880.

Sir,

IN continuation of the despatch which I had the honour to address to your Excellency on the 17th instant respecting the state of affairs in Syria, I have been informed that the Commission appointed by Midhat Pasha to inquire into the fiscal operations lately carried on in the district of Baalbec, is actively engaged in prosecuting its labours, and that, thanks principally to the energy and rectitude of the First Commissioner, Mohammed Said Bey, this most glaring case of wholesale corruption has been successfully exposed.

The proceedings took place in open Court, and a number of the Sheiks, from the different villages of the Bekaa, as well as the English Agent for the property referred to in my previous despatches, appeared to give their evidence.

The Kaimakam of Baalbec, the Cadi, and the Official Registrar have all been found guilty, and suspended from their functions. Nor is it expected that the chief officials connected with the Land Registration Department in Damascus will be able to clear themselves. It is to be hoped that they will be equally unsuccessful in avoiding punishment, for there is little doubt that they instigated their subordinates in the Bekaa to act as they have done, and shared largely in the plunder.

Should his Highness avail himself of this opportunity to make an example of all the offenders, both high and low, implicated in this matter, such a course would doubtless go far to check the corruption which has hitherto obtained throughout Syria. With regard to the Sidon district, information reaches me that strenuous exertions are being made to stifle all complaints against Youssef Agha Memlouk and Khalil Boy el Assaad, and to influence public opinion in their favour.

Petitions are said to have been transmitted to the vilayet, from some of the inhabitants, repudiating all share in the demands for a Commission of Inquiry, and it is reported that many of the complainants themselves are withdrawing the charges already advanced by them, while the Greek Orthodox and Greek Catholic Bishops of Sidon and Merj Ayoun are stated to have telegraphed to the Vali their indignation at the proceedings instituted against two such estimable and esteemed individuals as Memlouk and El Assaad.

Midhat Pasha left Beyrout for Sidon on the 29th instant, and it is probable that his Highness will take further measures in this matter during his visit, but as he is accompanied by Khalil Bey el Assaad during his progress, it is scarcely to be hoped that he will arrive at an impartial judgment of the merits of this case.

I regret to hear from Tripoli that, as was expected, nothing further has been allowed to transpire with respect to the case of coining mentioned in my former despatch, and it is feared the authorities of that place are only too well content to let the matter rest where it is, instead of supporting Murad Bey in his praiseworthy efforts to bring to light the accomplices of Abd el Latif.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

P.S. *February* 2.—Since writing the above despatch I have received petitions from the inhabitants of the district of Sour, on which I will report further of as soon as I have had time to examine them.

G. J. E.

No. 54.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 7. Political.)

Beyrout, February 2, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. 9, which

I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting further on recent malpractices in connection with the reassessment of the land tax in the district of Baalbec.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 54.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Beyrout, February 2, 1880.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 31st ultimo, and in the previous Reports which I have had the honour to address to your Excellency respecting fiscal operations recently carried on in the district of Baalbec in connection with the reduction of the land tax, I have had occasion to refer to an English gentleman who acts as agent for a large estate situated in the Bekaa and Anti-Lebanon, and to whose discretion and energy I am principally indebted for the information I have received in this matter. This gentleman, who has now kindly allowed me to mention his name, is Mr. John Scott Rattray, who, besides farming estates of his own, is the agent of Sir Richard Wood, late Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Tunis, for the somewhat extensive property of which he is possessed in Syria.

Mr. Rattray has for many years been kind enough to place at my disposal any information of public interest concerning the district in which he resides; but in no case has his friendly assistance been of more value than in enabling me now to expose the manner in which high officials of the vilayet have sought to extort money from the owners of land and rob the Imperial Treasury under pretence of reducing the charges with which agriculture is burdened in this country.

Mr. Rattray having sought in vain by legitimate means to obtain a rebate of the taxes assessed on his own and Sir R. Wood's estates, was fain to submit to the extortionate demands of the Baalbec officials, and reported to me the facts, which I laid before your Excellency in my despatch of the 6th December. When Midhat Pasha, upon the unofficial representations which I made to him in the matter appointed two Commissioners to proceed to Baalbec and investigate the case, Mr. Rattray's assistance was eagerly sought for by the officials intrusted with the inquiry, and was as readily granted.

Mahommed Said Bey having invited him by telegraph to ride over to Baalbec and give his evidence in Court, Mr. Rattray, undeterred by the exceptional inclemency of the season, hastened to obey the summons; and it is doubtless due principally to his devotion and rectitude that the labours of the Commission have been successful in bringing this scandal to light.

Aware of the damning nature of the information he was able to impart, the implicated officials spared no efforts to deprive the Commission of his evidence, and an offer of 10,000 piastres was made to him if he would write a contradiction of the Report which he had addressed to me. Needless to say that he refused indignantly, and that when he returned home to Muallaka, although unsuccessful in procuring the repayment of the sums in which he had been mulcted, and the poorer by the considerable expenses which he had been obliged to incur (amounting, I believe, to nearly 10*l.*), he had the satisfaction of knowing that his assistance had been mainly instrumental in exposing the transactions of which the whole neighbourhood had been victims.

It would seem, from the conversations which Mr. Rattray had with the Baalbec officials and the evidence given in his presence in Court, that the malversations complained of in the Baalbec district extended to other parts of the vilayet. They began in Damascus, where all the large proprietors had to pay heavily for the reduction of their taxes.

The Property Registrar for the Bekaa informed Mr. Rattray that the head of his Department at Damascus called on him on his way to Baalbec and threatened to dismiss him unless he levied proper black-mail on the proprietors whose taxes were reassessed.

This same official was afterwards on his way to Hama on a similar mission, when Midhat Pasha caused the present inquiry to be instituted.

It is, to say the least, singular that such proceedings should have been carried on for upwards of seven months in various districts of Syria without reaching the ears

of the Governor-General; but as Mahommed Said Bey is shortly expected at Beyrout to report to his Highness the results of his inquiry, I hope to obtain from him further information on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 55.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord, *Sivas, January* 10, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of despatches relating to affairs in the Sivas Vilayet, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1.)
Sir, *Sivas, January* 6, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that last month arrangements having been made with the Valis of the adjoining vilayets, Abedin Pasha directed the Kaimakam of Azizieh, Mahommed Amin Bey, to capture, at all costs, Tek-Tashak, the most notorious robber in Eastern Anatolia, whose proceedings are alluded to in Captain Cooper's despatch to your Excellency of the 13th September and Mr. Gatheral's of the 27th September.

His Excellency the Vali informed me on the 30th December, as notified in my telegram of the same date, that Tek-Tashak had just been caught in the Adana Vilayet after an exciting chase of fifteen days. Great credit is due to Amin Bey for the energetic manner in which he carried out the orders of the Vali, and I believe Abedin Pasha proposes to recommend him for a decoration, which he well deserves.

I have also much pleasure in informing your Excellency that the zaptieh force in the Sivas Vilayet, officers and men, has been paid in full to the end of last month. This is the first time for many years that the pay of the zaptiehs has not been several months in arrear, and the result will, I have no doubt, be a great improvement in the efficiency and *morale* of the force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Sivas, January* 6, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Izzet Pasha, the recently appointed Mutessarif of Amasia, has arrived at that place. The selection of Izzet Pasha, who some years ago was dismissed from his post at Jerusalem for gross peculation, and whose character is well known in Anatolia, has created much surprise and produced a painful impression upon the people, who look in vain for that amelioration in their condition which has so often been promised.

The Sandjak of Amasia, with its large Circassian population, requires a firm, active, and energetic Governor; and the notoriously corrupt practices of some of the officials can only be kept in check by a Mutessarif who honestly tries to do his duty.

There is little hope, I fear, that the new Governor will be able, even if he be willing, to control either the Circassians or the corrupt officials, and I must confess that I see no prospect of administrative reform or of any amelioration in the condition

of the people so long as the Porte insists upon sending men of Izzet Pasha's known antecedents to govern in the provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 55.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Sivas, January* 6, 1880.

IN a telegram from Amasia, dated the 6th December last, I had the honour to acquaint your Excellency that the information contained in my despatch of the 21st November last was not correct. In that despatch I stated that his Excellency Lieutenant-General Musa Pasha had captured a number of notorious robbers in the Tocat district and in the Amasia Sandjak, and that a linked guarantee for good behaviour was being formed amongst the whole population.

On my arrival at Amasia I found that a very different view of Musa Pasha's action prevailed, and I was informed by trustworthy persons at Tocat that, with a few exceptions, the Circassians had refused to enter into any guarantee for good behaviour such as that demanded from them.

The people in the Amasia Sandjak complained that most of the Circassians who had been imprisoned were men selected at hazard from the different villages, and not the notorious robbers; I was further given to understand that some of them, against whom no definite accusation had been brought, had already been released. There was a very general complaint, too, that the Circassians had been treated with undue partiality, and that in some instances an inclination had been shown to screen or palliate their offences, whilst no such tenderness was manifested towards other members of the community.

I must add that Musa Pasha, in a conversation which I had with his Excellency the other day, denied having acted with any partiality, and that he told me he had endeavoured to be just to everyone.

In two instances petitions were addressed to me at Marsivan by respectable merchants, complaining that the Circassians who had robbed them, and whose names they mentioned, had not been arrested, and that no attempt had been made to recover the stolen property.

As these robberies were committed on the caravan road from Samsoun, and the want of action on the part of the local authorities was likely to have an injurious effect upon the transit trade between Yuzgat and Samsoun, I thought them of sufficient importance to bring to the notice of the Vali in a note, a copy of which I inclose. I am glad to say that two of the robbers, Aslanghiri and Kel Zakaria, were among the Circassians captured by Musa Pasha, and that they are now in the Sivas prison; Suleiman Tchavoush, however, the most notorious of the band, is said to have escaped to Batra.

His Excellency Abedin Pasha has kindly promised to attend to the matter, and I trust the result will be the recovery of the stolen property and arrest of the remaining robbers.

Your Excellency will observe that in one of the petitions Musa Pasha is said to have called the petitioners bad names, and to have kicked them out of the room; I do not think, from what I have heard, that the men were ill-treated, but there seems no doubt that they were addressed in strong, abusive language, and somewhat curtly turned out of the room.

Musa Pasha appears on every occasion to have advised the Circassians to remain quiet and commit no more robberies, and, though he may not in all cases have acted with judgment, there is no doubt that the presence of an officer of his rank in the district, accompanied by a detachment of cavalry, has had, for the moment, a quieting effect.

I found everywhere that the energetic action of Abedin Pasha was producing the best results, and I am glad to be able to report that for the last two months no case of highway robbery has been brought to my notice.

One of the duties intrusted to Musa Pasha was the settlement of certain refugees in the Amasia Sandjak, and several complaints were made to me of the manner in which he proposed to distribute them. At Amasia, he wished to plant a colony of Tartars on an open piece of ground in the Christian quarter, which was once occupied

by the Palace of Sultan Bajazid; at Marsivan a piece of ground adjoining the Armenian cemetery, which had been granted to the Armenians by Firman, and in which they had a right to bury, was given to the refugees; and in the Harza Nahié, a village of Circassians was being established in close proximity to a Greek village.

I am bringing these cases to the notice of the Vali, and shall probably have to write more fully to your Excellency about them hereafter. The decisions have, I think, been arrived at without due consideration, and if they are carried out difficulties are likely to arise between the Christians and the new settlers; in either case other suitable land was available.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 55.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Abedin Pasha.

Sivas, January 3, 1880.

Excellency,

ON the 18th October last I had the honour to present to you a telegram which I had received from a merchant of Yuzgat relating to a robbery on the Chorum road, in the Maden Caza, to which your Excellency was kind enough to promise that attention should be paid.

Whilst recently at Marsivan, I received the accompanying petition from the men who had been robbed, in which it is stated that nothing has been done to recover the stolen property or punish the robbers.

I have also to present to your Excellency a petition from some merchants who were robbed in the Osmanjik Caza whilst proceeding to the Yaprakli fair; these men also state that no steps have been taken to punish the robbers.

These two robberies are of much importance, as they occurred on the great caravan road from Yuzgat to Samsoun, over which there is considerable traffic. The knowledge that the robbers have remained unpunished has had a bad effect upon commerce. The merchants hesitate to expose their goods to the risk of robbery, and I was told that this was one of the reasons of the low exports from Samsoun this year.

Your Excellency is so fully aware of the benefit which the country derives from mercantile operations, that I need not point out the desirability of giving every protection to the merchants in the transaction of their business and to their property during transit through the vilayet.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 55.

Petition from Handjian Kazaros and Mustapha Effendi.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

MORE than two and a-half months ago your servants, merchants of Yuzgat, were sending twenty mule-loads of merchandize from Samsoun to Yuzgat. The robbers, whose names are mentioned below,* attacked the caravan on the Dekanji Ova, in the Maden Caza, and having bound the muleteers with cords, carried off three mules, laden with the most valuable goods, to the mountains of the Maden Caza. The muleteers, having unbound themselves, followed the track of the mules in the mud, and then went to Hadji-keui and applied to the local authorities.

An officer, Salih Effendi, was sent with the muleteers. Following the footsteps of the robbers, they went to the village of Dédé, where the robbers, according to the statement of the headman, Hussein Tchavaush, had stopped the previous night and divided the stolen goods. Hussein Tchavaush having joined the party, they followed the marks on the ground to a place called Yaylalik, between Dédé and Ekriyuk, the village of the robbers. Here the officer and the muleteers saw personally the spot where the robbers burnt the ropes and pack-coverings and separated the goods.

Following the footmarks they reached Ekriyuk, and there found that the marks led straight to the house of Suleiman Tchavaush. The officer and the muleteers were afraid to enter the house, but, according to the Circassian custom, they sent for the Beys, Djir Aslan and Noghai Ishak, and asked permission to search the premises. The Beys said they could not search Suleiman's house, and that they had nothing to do with the matter. Upon this our muleteers insisted that the house should be searched. Accompanied by a Circassian, Patlak Mehmed, they entered Suleiman's house, and found in it samples of the goods, some pieces of cloth, saddle-bags, &c. They would have found everything, but the Circassian, Mehmed, would not allow them to do so, and turned them out of the house. The muleteers showed the samples to Djir Aslan; told him the remainder was in the house; and said they would like to make a fuller search. Owing to a demonstration of the Circassians, at which Ibrahim Tchavoush, a Marsivan zaptieh, was present, they were unable to do so; but on Djir Aslan's proposing to recover the stolen goods if they gave him the samples, they did so.

Djir Aslan did not recover the goods by the specified time, and when he was told to come to the zaptieh's house and explain why he had not kept his promise, he openly refused to do so. The muleteers applied to the Marsivan Government, upon which Djir Aslan was brought to Marsivan, and the case being proved against him he was imprisoned. The robbers, however, not being captured, we applied to the vilayet, whence an order came directing the Local Government to catch them. Nothing has been done since that time.

Recently, when Musa Pasha was here, we applied to him, and, after stating the whole matter, mentioned the names of the robbers. He confessed that, according to the testimony of the Circassians, some of them were guilty, but said that the rest were innocent, and that the accusation against them was false. We insisted that the robbers were those whose names we had mentioned to him (the names mentioned in note on p. 3). Hearing this he called us bad names and kicked us out of the room. He let Djir Aslan out of prison, and said he would send the others to Sivas. We do not know what he is going to do with them.

Excellency, we are undone; our rights and properties are not protected and respected.

We beg you to give the case your kind consideration.

(Signed) HANDJIAN KAZAROS.
MUSTAPHA EFFENDI, *Muleteer.*

* 1. Arlanghiri, son of Zabit Bey; 2. Shahanghiri, son of Djil Aslan Bey; 3. Kel Zakaria; 4. Suleiman Tchavaush; 5. Kuri Ali, slave of Yousuf Bey; 6. Kel Mehmed Bey; 7. Dishsiz Osman; 8. Hodja Bekir Oglou Osman.

Inclosure 6 in No. 55.

Petition from several Merchants.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

YOUR servants, thirty merchants, whilst going to the Yaprakli fair, were attacked near Hadji Oglou's Guard-house, in the Osmanjik Caza, two hours from Hadji-keui, by ten Circassians, armed with Government rifles and revolvers. They told our Turkish companions to stand apart from the Christians, and then wounded a few of the latter, one of whom has since died from his wounds. They robbed six horses, watches, paper, notes, &c. We petitioned the Osmanjik and Marsivan Governments, as well as the vilayet, without any result. When Musa Pasha was here, hearing that he came with power to carry out reforms, we applied to him, and intimated to his Excellency that some of the robbers were amongst the persons accompanying him. Our petition was left unnoticed. We beg to bring our case before you, and humbly entreat you to protect our rights and do something to secure the restoration of our goods.

(Signed) ARTIN ESSAYIAN.
AGOP KEYISHIAN.
ARTIN GULBENKIAN.
ANDON DJAINGOSSIAN, *of Angora.*

The names of the robbers: Aslanghiri, Kel Zakaria, Shahanghiri, Kabertaï Mehmed, Ramazan Mehmed, Oronj Oglou, nephew of Kumbout Bey.

Inclosure 7 in No. 55.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 7.)
Sir, *Sivas, January* 8, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 28th October last, forwarding, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch which I had addressed to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs respecting the ill-treatment of certain Circassian Christians at Amasia, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that during my recent visit to Amasia I made further inquiry regarding the children, a boy and a girl, said to have been sold to Fikri Bey.

There is no doubt that these two children were purchased by Fikri Bey, and that the girl was sold in Constantinople by Mehmet, Fikri Bey's brother; the boy has, for the moment, disappeared, but it was intimated to me that, if no inquiry were made for the girl, he would be found.

His Excellency the Vali forwarded a telegram to Amasia, directing Fikri Bey to come to Sivas, and sent an official to inquire into the matter; he found, however, that as Fikri Bey was a clerk in one of the Law Courts, he had no power over him. Upon this, Abedin Pasha handed the papers to the Mudaioumoum (Public Prosecutor) at Sivas, who has telegraphed to his Assistant at Amasia without eliciting any answer.

I told the Cadi of Amasia, a man who is said to be notoriously corrupt, and to take bribes almost openly from both parties to a suit, that I considered him, as head of the Courts of Justice at Amasia, responsible for the production of the boy, and that if the child were not forthcoming he would have to answer for the consequences at Constantinople.

The boy has not yet been found, and I fear that I can do nothing further here; the whole case is well known at Amasia, and the fact that a clerk in one of the Law Courts should be able to defy the law openly and be protected in his defiance by the Judge of the Court says little for the purity of the new legal machinery.

I would beg to express a hope that your Excellency will bring the matter to the notice of the Minister of Justice, and urge him to take such steps as may be necessary to punish Fikri Bey and recover the children.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 8 in No. 55.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Sivas, January* 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have directed Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., to accompany Baker Pasha during his mission to Asiatic Turkey.

Should your Excellency consider it unnecessary for Lieutenant Chermside to accompany Baker Pasha to Van and Erzeroum he can be recalled by telegram.

As Lieutenant Chermside has not yet taken up his Consular duties, I do not see that any great inconvenience can arise from his accompanying Baker Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 9 in No. 55.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Sivas, January* 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that towards the end of next month I propose starting on a somewhat prolonged tour in Anatolia. I intend travelling by way of Angora to Ada-Bazar and Constantinople, and thence by steamer to Smyrna. From Smyrna I propose, after visiting the disturbed districts in the Aidin Vilayet, returning to Sivas by way of Kastamuni. I hope to reach Sivas again towards the end of May.

I find so much more good is done by travelling than by remaining constantly at one place, that I trust my intended journey may meet with your Excellency's approval. I believe, also, the fact of my visiting the several Vice-Consuls occasionally has a very beneficial effect, as it shows the Government officials that the Vice-Consuls are thoroughly supported in such remonstrances as they may have found it necessary to make from time to time against particular instances of misgovernment or oppression.

I intend leaving Mr. Richards as Consular Agent at Sivas, and asking Captain Stewart to visit the place and remain there a few weeks during my absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 56.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Sivas, January* 10, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, despatches relating to affairs at Kaisarieh and Brusa, which I have received from Captain Cooper, 47th Regiment, and Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Gilbertson.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 56.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 13. Political.)
Sir, *Kaisarieh, November* 11, 1879.

WITH reference to paragraph 9 of my despatch of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to report that an order was received here to-day to raise £ T. 15,000, repayable with interest next year.

A meeting is to be held to-morrow to determine the manner in which the money is to be collected, but I hear that there is very great disinclination to subscribe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 56.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 14. Political.)
Sir, *Kaisarieh, November* 15, 1879.

THE Medjliss of this sandjak not having been changed for four years, orders have recently been given to elect fresh members.

2. The names of the official candidates for the Idaré Medjliss are already known, and among them are those of two Moslems who are ineligible.

Saïd Agha and Mustafah Dwely Oglou were imprisoned in 1858 for robbing the Government by sale of tithes. In addition, Saïd Agha, when President of the Tidjaiet Medjliss (1873-74), gave thirty-six wrong decisions, and a special order was issued dismissing him from public employment. Mustafah Agha can neither read nor write.

These Beys belong to the Aghakayalroglou family, descendants of the Déré Beys, and enjoy considerable local influence, which has, according to rumour, been unscrupulously used in taking bribes.

A third Moslem candidate, Mustapha Agha Moorlah Zadi, also belonging to an old Déré Bey family, is not a suitable person to place in the Idaré Medjliss. He has been concerned in several doubtful transactions, and there are at the present moment some cases against him awaiting decision.

3. The list of the Bedjet Mehkémédji is not complete, owing to the differences between the heads of the Christian communities.

Under the new laws the members of the Bediet will have greater opportunities for making money than those of the Idaré.

Saïd Agha has been put forward by the Mutessarif as one of the Moslem candidates, and evidently regards his election sure, as he has withdrawn his name from the Idaré list.

As soon as this was known, a Moslem, one of the very few honest men among the candidates, withdrew, declining to be associated with such characters.

4. The delay in nomination of the Christian candidates is due to the Protestants having claimed their right to put forward a candidate.

Only six non-Moslem candidates are allowed for the two vacancies, and hitherto the Greeks and Armenians have each named three, and one from each community was ultimately elected.

By law the Bediet consist of two Moslem and two non-Moslem members; consequently if the Protestant candidate was elected, either Greek or Armenian must be left out.

5. The Greek Bishop and the Armenian Vakeel have opposed the Protestant claim, as contrary to custom and prejudicial to the interests of their communities.

The Greek Bishop, better known in Europe as the Archimandrite Anactides, who represented the Greek Church at the Bonn Conference, is an enlightened man, and as Bishop of Kaisarieh is second only to the Patriarch of Constantinople in the Greek hierarchy.

The Armenian Archbishop is too old to take an active share in public affairs, and is represented by a Vakeel, who on this occasion follows the lead of the Greek Bishop.

6. Sooner than run the risk of defeat at the coming election, the Greeks and Armenians have almost determined not to submit any candidate.

It is not that the Bishops object to the Protestants being represented, but that the representation should be at the expense of their communities. And they suggest that the members of the Bediet should be so increased as to give a representative to every recognized community.

The objection to not being represented on the Medjliss is very fair when it is considered how completely the Porte treats the communities as separate bodies. And the Bishops' suggestion, though in many places it would make the Medjliss an overgrown body, seems the only solution of the difficulty, unless the Porte is prepared to do away with government by communities.

7. In a former despatch I have reported that the *personnel* of the Government was scarcely satisfactory, and the following remarks on certain officials may give some idea of the state in which affairs are at Kaisarieh:

The President of the Tidjaret Medjliss (Commercial Court) has been summoned suddenly to Constantinople to explain the accounts of his last post.

The Assistant Judge in the Bediet Mehkémési (Criminal Court) is at Angora under examination on charges of malpractice.

The President of the Beledieh Medjliss (Municipality) was concerned in a fraudulent sale of Government lands in 1872.

The Aragié Mudir was engaged in the same affair, and in 1873 or 1874 was dismissed from all employment for having given false witness in the case of a man who claimed exemption from taxes as a descendant of Sheik Ismael.

The Moudaiounoum, besides being overwhelmed with business, cannot do his duty properly from the presence of local influence.

The complaints against the decisions and delay in the Courts of which the Cadi is President are frequent and bitter.

8. From the above it will be seen that little good can be expected from the existing Government, and that the members likely to be elected to the Medjliss are scarcely of the stamp to introduce a better state of affairs.

The Moufetish of Angora is supposed to be coming here soon, but even if he comes his rank is not sufficient to insure an impartial inspection, whilst the man himself is not likely to influence for good those with whom he will be brought in contact.

9. The changes here to do any good must be sweeping, and begin at the head. Both Mutessarif and Cadi must to a great extent be held responsible for existing misgovernment.

Although the independence of the judicature may exonerate the Mutessarif from wrong-doing in the Law Courts, yet he must be held responsible for the nomination and retention of incapable and corrupt officials in other Departments.

10. The Mutessarif, Hady Pasha, pleads ignorance of the former history of the men who surround him, but what is a matter of every day report in the town must be founded on fact, or the authors of the libels would be published.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 56.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No 15. Political. Confidential.)

Kaisarieh, November 16, 1879.

Sir,

IN the accompanying despatch I have reported against certain members of the Local Government and other influential inhabitants of Kaisarieh.

2. In doing so I have purposely withheld my authority for the statements made, as unless the Porte will take radical measures to reform the government of Kaisarieh and of the Angora Vilayet, to give names would needlessly expose residents to persecution.

I have no means of obtaining access to public documents, but I have every reason to believe the facts true, and that if a capable and honest Governor or Commissioner were to investigate them they would be borne out by the records of Government either here or at Angora.

3. Hady Pasha, the Mutessarif of Kaisarieh, who, on my arrival, showed a decided disinclination to speak on the affairs of his Government, has lately become more communicative. But his conduct, judging by results, does not change; affairs are in a deplorable condition, and there is little chance of improvement under his administration.

The Cadi, of whom report spoke as honest and painstaking, I find to be a weak and dilatory Judge, if not taking bribes himself, conniving at corruption in others.

4. Kaisarieh is essentially a money-making place, and public opinion is in favour of any Government which in return for taxes will give security of life and property. The Porte does neither.

The present call for £ T. 15,000 has stirred up the ill-feeling against the Porte, and England comes in for a share of the unpopularity.

5. The people, both Moslem and Christian, believe that any Government would be preferable to the existing, and till lately the coming of the Russians was looked upon as only a matter of time.

The Anglo-Turkish Convention has knocked that on the head, and public opinion now regards England rather as a dog in the manger, having stopped Russia helping Anatolia, and yet doing nothing herself.

6. Kaisarieh will always be a centre of intrigue, but there is no doubt but that the existing ill-will towards England is due to the non-fulfilment of the reforms which were so eagerly expected after the publication of the Convention of 1878.

7. The pressing reforms are not complicated laws nor a host of new officials. It is no good summoning evil-doers to Angora or Constantinople to let them return unpunished in a few months to the provinces.

The urgent need is for honest and capable Valis, Mutessarifs, and Cadis.

For the present it is good men with large powers who are wanted to restore order, and pave the way for the reforms which advancing civilization will later on render necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 4 in No. 56.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 16. Political.)

Adana, December 2, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to inform you that the Mutessarif, though offering the public lands as security, has been unable to induce the Notables of Kaisarieh to subscribe to the loan of £ T. 15,000. The

people plead the efforts made during the late war as an excuse for not subscribing now, and have offered instead immediately to pay half the sum due on account of taxes during the coming year. The offer had not been accepted when I left Kaisarieh on the 19th ultimo.

2. About two months ago the Adana Vilayet was called upon to find £T. 50,000. This sum the Vali cannot raise easily; but a group of Greek merchants have offered to subscribe the nominal sum required, at 12 per cent. interest, on the security of the salt lake near Tarsus, and on condition that one-quarter of the amount subscribed should be considered as already paid by the cancel of outstanding debts. Tin Pasha has reported the offer, but the Porte has not yet accepted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 56.

Acting Vice-Consul Gilbertson to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Brussa, November* 15, 1879.

THE inhabitants of Brussa and its dependencies have (in accordance with the Sultan's Proclamation relative to the administration of justice and security of property), for years past, been exempted from forced labour and extortion.

Our Governor-General, Achmet Vefik Pasha, has, since his arrival, pressed each individual to work twelve days, or pay an equivalent. This act on his Highness' part is quite contrary to the orders issued in the 5th paragraph of the said Proclamation, viz.: "None of the people shall be subject to forced labour, but the labourer shall be duly remunerated." The 9th says: "All subjects of the Empire, so long as they pay duly, in time and amount, their legal and administrative taxes, shall not be subject to other unjust demands."

Achmet Vefik Pasha, not having sufficient funds in hand to carry out his ideas of embellishing the town by pulling houses down to make roads, extorted from each member of the Christian population sums of money, from 1*l.* to 100*l.*, according, as he thought, to their respective pecuniary circumstances. His Highness, by so doing, broke above paragraph.

The population, at first, would not yield to this second extortion; but Achmet Vefik was not long before he found a cure (the prison), by which he coerced the poorest and middle classes to submit. However, some of the most influential and richest men defied the Governor-General to enforce his despotic design of imprisonment and the sealing of their magazines until the amount demanded was paid. His Highness thereupon struck one of the leading Christians on the nose, and said, "Don't you know me of old? I will make you pay. Go and think over what I've told you." The gentleman replied, "I will not pay a farthing of the amount you want to extort, even if it costs me 1,000*l.* to defend myself against any intrigue you may bring against me for my reluctance to such extortion."

The Vali, finding they would not relent, sent lists to the Christian Bishops with the names and amount demanded, at the same time informing them to accept whatever amount they offered. Some persons from whom his Highness demanded 30*l.* have paid 5*l.* and settled; others still hold out.

I have already stated that Achmet Vefik Pasha pulled a great number of houses down, but not that he did so without giving the inmates scarcely a moment's notice or any recompense for their loss. This act caused great misery amongst the poorer classes, who have had to divide their families amongst their different communities, so as to enable them to procure a night's rest. His Highness also destroyed certain cemeteries situated outside the town, and used the tombstones, in open daylight, to cover the sewers. To the last act I was an eye-witness, and I can assure you, Sir, that these arbitrary acts on the part of our Governor-General have greatly incensed the population, without respect to creed, against his Highness.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. GILBERTSON.

No. 57.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 4. Secret.)
My Lord, *Sivas, January* 10, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of three despatches, marked "Secret," relating to affairs in the Sivas Vilayet, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1. Secret.)
Sir, *Sivas, January* 6, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch of this day's date, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that on my return to Sivas I had a conversation with Abedin Pasha respecting the proceedings of Musa Pasha. His Excellency told me that he thought Musa Pasha wished to act honestly, but that from error of judgment or from an imperfect knowledge of the Turkish language he may have committed mistakes; in this explanation I cannot quite concur. Two days afterwards Musa Pasha called on me, and, in a long conversation, denied having shown any partiality to the Circassians, or having treated the Christians who presented petitions to him in the manner they alleged.

My informants, with regard to Musa Pasha's proceedings, were Mr. Krug, the German Vice-Consul at Amasia, and two members of the Administrative Council of that town, Mehemet Bey, a Turkish Notable, and Jeremi Effendi, a Protestant Armenian. The two last gentlemen accompanied Musa Pasha in his journey, without, however, having any power of interference in what he did. They told me that his Excellency would not listen to any accusations brought against the Circassians, and that he had even abused the late Mutessarif of Amasia and the Medjliss in rather strong language for reporting Circassian robberies to the Vali of Sivas. They also said that he had released several Circassians from prison, and that those he had imprisoned himself had been arbitrarily selected from various villages without regard to their having committed any crime. On the other hand, all non-Circassians, Christians, Turks, Kurds, &c., were treated with much harshness. In many cases men who had been robbed by Circassians of horses, cattle, &c., were openly told to purchase them back instead of complaining to the Government. Much of this was corroborated by the villagers of the districts I passed through. Musa Pasha told my informants that he could not act otherwise towards the Circassians, as some of the headmen had relations in the Palace Harem at Constantinople who protected them. Jeremi Effendi also said that Musa Pasha had advised the Turkish villagers to fraternize with their co-religionists the Circassians, that what he said was calculated to rouse the religious animosity of the Turks towards the Christians, and that he had abused the European Powers for interfering on behalf of the Christians.

Musa Pasha is one of those men upon whom recent events have produced the impression that the Ottoman Empire is falling to pieces; he is ambitious, and I attribute much of his action to political motives, viz., a desire to ingratiate himself with the Circassians, with whom he hopes to play a leading part in the event of future complications. He is, as your Excellency is aware, Circassian, and was at one time an officer of high rank in the Russian service. He now commands the troops in the Sivas Vilayet.

I have not thought it necessary to make a formal complaint to the Vali of Musa Pasha's proceedings, but have contented myself with bringing to his notice a few individual cases in which Circassians have remained unpunished or Christians have been unfairly treated. I felt that if justice could be obtained in these instances it would have a more beneficial effect than any general complaint, which, if investigated, might place my informants in an unpleasant position. For instance, Mehemet Bey has on more than one occasion been compelled to sign papers favourable to the Circassians by armed men who had forced their way into his house. If it were

known that he had spoken to me about them he would probably suffer considerable inconvenience.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 5. Secret.) *Sivas, January 7, 1880.*

Sir,

I BEG to inclose the substance of two telegrams which I had the honour to address to your Excellency on the 30th December last and the 2nd January, with respect to the Inspector of Law Courts (Adlié Mufettish) of this vilayet.

The circumstances are as follows:—On the day of my return, 29th December, Abedin Pasha called, and in the course of conversation told me that the Mufettish wished to release Yahya Bey and other prisoners, on the ground that no plaintiffs had appeared to prosecute them, that he (the Pasha), having heard of this, would not allow them to be released, and that the Inspector was, in consequence, either going to telegraph or had telegraphed to the Prime Minister in the matter. The Vali said he considered the confinement of the men necessary in the present state of the vilayet, an opinion in which I quite concurred, and he asked me to send a telegram to your Excellency with a view of obtaining support for him at the Porte. I heard a somewhat similar story from influential persons at Sivas. A few days afterwards I had an opportunity of talking to the Mufettish on the subject. He at once denied wishing to let Yahya Bey and others out of prison, and gave quite a different account of the quarrel, which has unfortunately led to a marked coolness between him and the Vali.

I have not been able to find out exactly what occurred, but believe there has been one of those quarrels which cannot fail to break out, sooner or later, between the Valis and the Mufettishes of the vilayets, under the present impracticable legal regulations.

Abedin Pasha, whose efforts to restore order in the vilayet I have reported to your Excellency in previous despatches, is responsible, as Vali, for security to life and property, but once a man is placed in prison his power ceases, unless by an arbitrary act he keeps the prisoner in confinement in defiance of the legal authorities.

The present Mufettish is, I have every reason to believe, a good and capable public servant; he has worked unceasingly since he has been here; has set his face decidedly against the influence which was formerly exercised by local Notables in the Courts; has been free from any suspicion of bribery; and, as far as his work has come under my notice, he has done it well. He has, however, perhaps naturally, an exalted idea of his position as Chief Officer of Justice in the vilayet, and is possibly somewhat unyielding in cases which, during the present period of transition, should be treated in a conciliatory manner.

For instance, a notorious robber is arrested and imprisoned by the Vali; if no plaintiff appears within a certain time the law directs that the man should be released. In this case the Mufettish or Mudaiumum (Public Prosecutor) sends a written order for the release of the prisoner to the officer of zaptiehs; the officer takes the order to the Vali, who directs him to pay no attention to it; a quarrel then ensues between the Judicial and Administrative. The Mufettish has acknowledged to me the difficulty of obtaining evidence, and has mentioned several expedients which he has employed to secure it. Failing, however, to do so, he says he is obliged to carry out the law and order the prisoners release. The people are, in fact, afraid to give evidence against notorious robbers; I have frequently urged them to do so, but they say with great truth, "We know Abedin Pasha's good intentions, but he may be removed at any moment; the robbers will then be let out of prison, and if we give evidence now, the first thing they will do will be to kill us."

The Valis have hitherto been all-powerful in their vilayets, and it is rather unpleasant for them now, when petitions are presented to them, to have to confess their want of power, and to refer the petitioners to the Courts of Justice. The Mufettishes, on the other hand, are jealous of any interference in judicial matters, and the people are bewildered at having what they call two Valis to deal with.

The new regulations do not define the relative positions of the Vali and the Mufettish; they simply leave the two principal officers in the vilayet to arrange the matter themselves.

It is greatly to be regretted that two such capable public servants as the Vali and the Mufettish of Sivas should not find it possible to work in concert. Abedin Pasha has, I am sorry to say, amongst his advisers some of the principal members of the "ring," which has for so many years controlled the Local Government. Perhaps he could not have done otherwise, but I fear these men do what they can to prejudice him against the Mufettish. The radical fault, however, lies in the new legal code, which is quite unsuited to the present condition of the country.

As an instance of the general confusion, I may mention that Abedin Pasha now holds two orders, signed by the Mudaiumum, one for the release of Alisham Boy, a Kurd, the other given shortly afterwards for his re-imprisonment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 57.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Sivas, December 30, 1879.*

TEK-TASHAK, notorious brigand, has just been caught. The Inspector of the Law Courts wants to release Yahya Bey and other robbers from prison contrary to the wish of the Pasha. The Inspector has telegraphed to the Grand Vizier, "Can you support the Governor-General? The custody of the prisoners is necessary to the security of the vilayet."

Inclosure 4 in No. 57.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Sivas, January 2, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 30th, the Inspector of the Law Courts says that he did not want the prisoners to be released. I will write fully by post.

Inclosure 5 in No. 57.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 6. Secret.) *Sivas, January 7, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, when at Amasia, I was informed by the late Mutessarif, who was then awaiting the arrival of his successor, that he had received secret orders from Constantinople to send every piastre he could collect to Stamboul, to put off the "havalé" holders with plausible pretexts, and to keep secret from the people the amount of money sent to the capital. He was also told that if any agents came to Amasia under the new arrangement come to with the Galata bankers for the collection of tobacco or other dues he was to inform them that there was no money in the chest; that the books were not made up, &c.; to gain delay, in fact, whilst the cash collected was secretly sent to Constantinople. The Governor complained much of the position in which he was placed; he said, "I am told to sit in my office and spend half the day in telling lies."

Since my return I have heard that similar orders were sent to Sivas and to the Kara-Hissar Sandjak.

The greatest pressure has been exercised to collect money from the people, and the Government has been particularly active in calling up arrears of taxes, those for as far back as the year before the famine being now demanded in full. Several persons have been imprisoned until they found means of payment, and I fear the pressure has caused much suffering. As usual in this country, the sufferers have been the poor, whilst the wealthy defaulters have often escaped payment. The Christians whose taxes have, as a rule, not been allowed to fall into arrear, have felt the pressure less than their Moslem fellow-subjects.

The result has been the collection of a considerable sum of money, out of which,

I am glad to say, Abedin Pasha retained sufficient to pay the zapticlis; the remainder was sent to Constantinople.

The vilayet is now pretty well drained of money, and when this temporary supply is exhausted the Porte will find some difficulty in raising more. Since the present Ministry came into office I have seen no sign of any effort to introduce measures for ameliorating the condition of the people; the appointment of Izzet Pasha to Amasia and the treatment of Mamas Effendi at Kharput show symptoms of a tendency in the opposite direction; the one idea seems to have been to collect money. Under such continued pressure for money it is almost impossible for the best-intentioned Vali to carry on the Government of his vilayet in an efficient manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 58.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 142. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 31, 1880.*

I LEARN on good authority that Yahya Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner for the delimitation of the new Russian frontier in Asiatic Turkey, who is recently returned to Constantinople, has given the Porte a very unfavourable report of the proceedings of the British Consular Officers in Armenia. He says that by their interference in every matter, however insignificant, they are practically taking the Government of the country out of the hands of the Turkish authorities, and are encouraging the Christian population to look to immediate independence. He consequently warns the Porte that if this state of things is allowed to continue it will, before long, lead to very serious complications. He declares that the policy pursued by Russia is much more in the true interest and more friendly to Turkey than that of England.

It is by no means improbable that this report of Yahya Pasha, which is calculated to do a good deal of mischief, and to still further excite the suspicions of the Porte as to the designs of England in Asia Minor, may be traced to Russian inspiration, if not to Russian gold.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 59.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 150.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a note I have received from Sawas Pasha in answer to mine of the 24th December last, demanding the dismissal of Husni Effendi, the Defterdar of Angora (copy inclosed in my dispatch to your Lordship No. 1155 of 24th December, 1879), and of my reply to it. His Excellency will, I understand, accede to my suggestion, that the Porte should appoint a delegate who should, in conjunction with one named by me, inquire on the spot into the complaints preferred by Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral and Mr. Binns against that functionary. As Colonel Wilson informs me that he will be at Angora early in March, I intend, with your Lordship's approval, to request him to act as the delegate of the Embassy in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 59.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 21 Janvier, 1880.

LE Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a reçu la note verbale que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu lui addresser le 24 Décembre, concernant le Defterdar d'Angora, Husni Effendi et le Férik de Van.

Déjà, à la réception des précédentes communications de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté la Reine à ce sujet, la Sublime Porte avait porté la plus grande attention sur ce double incident, et s'était empressée d'interpeler énergiquement les autorités supérieures des deux vilayets. Bien que depuis lors l'incident provoqué par les paroles attribuées au Général Osman Pacha ait été clos suivant les déclarations faites par l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, le Ministère Impérial n'en croit pas moins devoir exposer ici succinctement les informations qui lui ont été transmises à cet égard par son Excellence Hassan Pacha, Gouverneur-Général du vilayet de Van et qui peuvent se résumer ainsi qu'il suit:

Le Moukhtar du village de Khara Kialim ayant refusé l'hospitalité à quelques soldats qui, en route pour rejoindre leurs bataillons, devaient y passer la nuit, le Sous-Lieutenant Hussein qui accompagnait ces retardataires en porta plainte et l'autorité se saisit de l'affaire. Peu après, le Moukhtar vint au chef-lieu du vilayet sous prétexte d'y chercher des provisions, et le Général Osman Pacha l'ayant rencontré par hasard au conak du Gouvernement, ne put s'empêcher de lui faire sentir combien était indigne et répréhensible sa conduite envers ceux-là mêmes qui sont appelés à protéger et à défendre les populations. Lui adressant la parole, il lui dit: "C'est pour votre sécurité et votre tranquillité que l'on a dû prendre toutes ces mesures stratégiques sans porter aucune nouvelle charge aux villages. Vous n'en avez pas été satisfait et vous avez maltraité un officier fort poli dans ses manières et qui, de plus, était souffrant. Votre conduite n'est pas convenable. Grâce à Dieu, vous jouissez tous aujourd'hui d'une parfaite sécurité. Pourquoi donc voulez-vous importuner les étrangers et même les Consuls par les récits de vos prétendues souffrances?"

Telles sont en substance les paroles adressées par le Férik Osman Pacha au Moukhtar du susdit village. Quant à l'incident survenu entre Husni Effendi et Mr. Binns, le Ministère Impérial ne croit mieux faire pour édifier l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, que de lui transmettre, ci-joint, en traduction, le Rapport avec ses annexes qu'il a reçu à ce sujet du Gouverneur-Général d'Angora. Il ressort de toutes ces pièces que Husni Effendi ne s'est jamais écarté dans ses entretiens avec Mr. Binns, des règles les plus strictes de la convenance. Au contraire, c'est Mr. Binns qui le premier s'est servi d'un langage violent envers Husni Effendi. Celui-ci, froissé dans son amour-propre, lui répliqua en des termes un peu vifs pour sa personne, mais sans prononcer un seul mot et sans se permettre la moindre allusion soit contre la nation, soit contre le Gouvernement Anglais.

L'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique a porté à la connaissance du Ministère Impérial que les autorités d'Angora ont supprimé le témoignage d'un membre du Conseil et d'un particulier Chrétien.

La Sublime Porte n'a pas manqué de demander des explications sur ce point au Gouverneur-Général. Elle en attend la réponse. Mais si l'Ambassade voulait bien faire parvenir au Ministère Impérial les dépositions de ces deux personnes, elle peut être persuadée qu'elles seraient prises en très-sérieuse considération.

En attendant, la Sublime Porte prie l'Ambassade Royale de vouloir bien croire que dans cette affaire comme dans toute autre circonstance, elle est animée du désir le plus sincère de complaire à votre Excellence l'Ambassadeur, dont elle connaît les sentiments de haute justice. C'est à ces mêmes sentiments que la Sublime Porte fait appel en priant son Excellence de vouloir bien étudier avec attention les documents ci-inclus, et donner à qui de droit les instructions nécessaires afin que jusqu'à nouvel ordre Mr. Binns, homme très-honorable du reste, mais d'un caractère susceptible d'emportement, veuille se servir à l'avenir, dans l'intérêt même des nombreuses affaires qu'il a avec les autorités locales, de l'un de ses commis comme intermédiaire.

Inclosure 2 in No. 59.

Sir A. H. Layard to Sawas Pasha.

British Embassy, January 31, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's note of the 21st instant in reply to mine of the 24th of last month relating to the conduct of the Ferik Pasha at Van towards Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at that place, Captain Clayton, and the insults publicly offered to Mr. Binns, a British subject, and to the British nation by Husni Effendi, Defterdar of Angora.

I have transmitted to Captain Clayton, for any observations he may desire to make upon it, that part of your Excellency's note which refers to the incident in which he is concerned and which differs so materially, as your Excellency has no doubt perceived, from his account of what took place on the occasion.

I have been able to communicate to Mr. Gatheral, the British Vice-Consul at Angora, who is now at Constantinople, the report and evidence transmitted to the Sublime Porte by the Vali relating to the alleged misconduct of the Defterdar. I beg to submit to your Excellency's serious consideration his observations upon them, which I have now the honour to forward to your Excellency. Mr. Gatheral's statements are entirely at variance with those of the Vali and the Defterdar. The evidence that was taken in support of Mr. Binn's complaint appears, moreover, to have been suppressed. Your Excellency asks me, in your note, to furnish you with the depositions of the two persons who are alleged to have given such evidence. But they were taken by the Vali himself, and should, consequently, be in his hands and not in mine.

Your Excellency will, I think, admit from Mr. Gatheral's statements that the manner in which the inquiry in this case was conducted was most unsatisfactory. Every possible means appears to have been taken to screen the functionary whose dismissal it has been my duty to demand, and which, considering the friendly sentiments with which your Excellency declares himself to be animated towards Her Majesty's Embassy, I had every reason to hope your Excellency would not have hesitated to obtain.

I have therefore to request that a fresh inquiry be instituted into this case, and, as Colonel Wilson, Her Majesty's Consul-General for Anatolia, will shortly visit Angora, I beg to propose that the Sublime Porte should name a Delegate to meet him there with a view to making such inquiry.

I shall forward a copy of your Excellency's note and its inclosures, together with my reply to it, and Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral's observations upon it, to Her Majesty's Government.

I avail, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 59.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Stamboul, January 16, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to call your Excellency's attention anew to the case of Hussein Effendi, the Defterdar of Angora Province, and his insulting conduct and language towards Mr. Binns, a British subject, and the British Government and nation. The Governor-General, Khamsaad Pasha, in answer to my repeated demands for satisfaction, always pleaded that no instructions had reached him. After nearly a month's delay a number of telegrams in the most urgent form were received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, directing that official inquiries should be made in Angora and the result communicated to the Porte.

Although repeatedly urged by the Vali to submit evidence and send witnesses to be examined in obedience to telegraphic instructions received from your Excellency on the 25th December, 1879, I referred his Excellency to the Embassy for the information required. Whilst unable to take any official part in this so-called inquiry, I took care to have it carefully watched. The inquiry was conducted in a very loose, informal way; a list of parties to be called was written out, who were summoned to the Vali's private room, who merely asked a few hurried and leading questions, and a memorandum of the replies thus obtained was taken by the Vali's Private Secretary, this memorandum being sealed by the witnesses and countersigned by the Vali. Husni

Effendi himself was not interrogated, but was asked to put in his own account in writing of what took place, which he did at great length. These separate testimonies were condensed into a telegraphic despatch from the Vali to the Porte, which, of course, completely exonerated the compromised official, indicating that the fault lay with Mr. Binns and the "provocation" he had given.

The evidence itself was forwarded by post a few days later. Those examined (with one exception) were Moslem officials, who all admitted that they did not arrive till the disturbance was over, and when evidence was simply of the negative kind, "that the abusive language complained of was not made use of in their hearing." Several of the Christian Notables who were earlier on the scene volunteered their evidence, which was declined. The exception above referred to was Abig Effendi, a Christian member of the Idaré, or Administrative Council, who was interrogated. Although he did not hear the altercation at the outset, he arrived in time to seize Husni Effendi, and force him into a chair when advancing on Mr. Binns with uplifted arm, with the evident intention of striking him; that he remonstrated strongly with Husni Effendi on the impropriety of his conduct, telling him that he had no right to treat Mr. Binns in this violent fashion, as all he had to do was to forward to the Council any complaints Mr. Binns thought proper to make regarding the grain delivered, as Mr. Binns' contract was with the Council, that Council and not the Defterdar personally being responsible.

The Vali asked Husni Effendi to withdraw or modify this last statement, on the ground that he had no right to express a personal opinion on a matter of administration, but Abig Effendi insisted on giving his evidence in his own way. I have since ascertained that Abig Effendi's evidence was omitted altogether, and has never been forwarded to the Porte at all, showing clearly that the so-called inquiry was designedly a partial and one-sided affair.

I beg leave to again point out to your Excellency that as long as Husni Effendi remains in office British interests suffer seriously. Although few in number, the English in Angora represent the important interests of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, Messrs. C. S. Hanson and Co. and thirty English and European bankers and merchants. The total amount of "havalé," or Treasury Bonds, drawn on the local Treasury and payable to British Agents, exceeds £ T. 200,000, and Husni Effendi has thought proper to suspend all payments pending the settlement of this dispute, whilst the Valis decline to interfere, as it suits the purpose of both officials to accumulate and have the control of such funds.

Apart altogether from his outrageous treatment of Mr. Binns, Husni Effendi, as an official, is incompetent, stupid, inaccurate, and notoriously corrupt, a confident of his, called Cadi Oglou Ibrahim, catering for bribes in his behalf in the most shameless way. As a man he is equally notorious; as a glutton and a drunkard, his excesses frequently unfitting him for the performance of his duties.

Not only my fellow-countrymen, but the whole mercantile community of Angora, my Consular colleagues, Italian, French, and Persian correspondents in Constantinople and England, desire me to convey to your Excellency their respectful thanks for the energetic efforts made to have this objectionable official superseded, and desire me further to express their hope that a final effort will be crowned with the success they all so earnestly desire.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

Inclosure 4 in No. 59.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, January 26, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 23rd instant, covering translations of the evidence forwarded by the Governor-General of Angora Vilayet, relative to Mr. Binns' complaint against the Defterdar of that province. The original paper I return inclosed as directed.

After a careful study of this evidence, the following observations occur to me with regard to it:—The covering despatch of the Governor-General himself contains no information whatever relative to the nature of the inquiry or the facts of the case, a circumstance of some significance, seeing the quarrel took place in close proximity to his Excellency's private apartments.

My own despatch, a translation of which is added to the papers, is simply a formal acknowledgment of the urgent letters of the Governor-General to me on this subject, and (in conformity with your Excellency's instructions) referring the Governor-General to the British Embassy for the details he demanded.

The evidence of the Defterdar himself is only of indirect value, as he is naturally anxious to place his own conduct in the most plausible and favourable light possible. The evidence of Chakis Effendi is also valueless, that official being indebted to the Defterdar's patronage for a temporary post, and awaiting a further exercise of that patronage in order to secure a permanent one, and his evidence is plainly got up to order, a mere echo of the Defterdar's own, that it would never have been accepted by any Court of Inquiry with the least pretence to impartiality.

The whole weight of evidence, therefore, appears to me to rest on the testimony of Fehmy Bey, the Mekhoubji of the vilayet, and that of Moustafa Ruchdi Effendi, the Naib, or President of Appeal Tribunal. Their evidence, however, is of the most meagre description, and being almost identical in terms, suggests collusion between them. It is within my knowledge that such was the case, their testimony being drafted, compared, and then submitted to the Defterdar himself previous to the inquiry, who made what emendations seemed good to him.

One expression which occurs in each invalidates both:—"J'ai entendu du bruit dans la chambre du Defterdar; nous avons entendu un bruit venant de celle du Defterdar Effendi," which means that both these officials arrived too late to hear the insulting expressions complained of, and that on their reaching the scene the Defterdar rapidly adopted a calmer tone. This was pointed out in Mr. Binns' own deposition, and verified by the inquiries made by me of those who arrived previous to the Mekhoubji and Naib reaching the Defterdar's room.

With regard to the Defterdar's own evidence two observations occur to me. In reply to Mr. Binns' just complaints regarding the rotten condition of some of the grain delivered, the Defterdar admits having used the expression "J'ai ajouté à Mr. Binns qu'il était libre de ne pas acheter le tout." Now this he had no right to say, as he was not at all responsible; all he had to do was to take note of the complaint and forward it to the Administrative Council of the vilayet, who were the sellers, Mr. Binns' contract being with that Council, and not with any member of it. It is quite notorious, however, that the Defterdar's object was to bully Mr. Binns into throwing up the contract altogether, as he frequently declared his firm intention of getting the grain into his own hands, and disposing of it for his own profit.

Secondly. I would beg most respectfully to call your Excellency's special attention to the Defterdar's demand: "Je vous avais précédemment prié de régler vos affaires avec moi d'entremise d'un de vos hommes" . . . . a request which seems harmless enough, and which the Sublime Porte endorses by requesting your Excellency to give orders to that effect. This is an arrangement this Defterdar has fought hard to make indispensable both with Mr. Binns and myself, as our direct, straightforward mode of conducting business does not please him. As Englishmen, we are not accustomed to delegate important affairs to any employé, and accepting full responsibility ourselves; we prefer to speak face to face with those who are officially responsible, and we have accordingly politely, but firmly, declined to employ intermediaries. The Defterdar resents this, as a third party suits his purpose much better, as he can suggest to a demand from such parties commissions, perquisites, and bribes, on pretence of facilitating our operations, whilst he is ashamed or afraid to make such demands directly or face-to-face, because his mendacity and dishonesty would be denounced and exposed forthwith, whereas in negotiating with a third party he can escape all danger of inquiry by a flat denial, and feels secure, because nothing can be proved.

In conclusion, I have to inform your Excellency that even the officials, whose evidence is offered in Husni Effendi's exculpation, viz., the Vali, the Mekhoubji, and the Naib have each informed me, unofficially and in conversation, that they were quite aware that the abusive terms complained of had been used, but that, officially, they were obliged to take his part, and do what they could to secure his acquittal, as his connections in Constantinople were too powerful to be offended, and as his case might any day be their own, *esprit de corps* laid them under obligation to suppress anything unfavourable to an official attacked by foreigners. At the same time, they assured me of their earnest hope that the efforts made for his dismissal would be successful.

The aspersions thrown on my fellow countryman's character, in the extract from note sent your Excellency by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, seem to me most uncalled-for. Mr. Binns and the writer have been settled in Angora for upwards of

eight years; we have transacted affairs with nine Governors-General and five Defterdars. Our relations have always till now been friendly, and often cordial, and this is the first time in that period that we have had to complain to your Excellency of the way in which we have been treated. This, I submit, goes to prove that we have not made a groundless or unreasonable demand in asking that we should be saved from the insults and exactions of a dishonest and incapable official. In making such a change the Government of His Majesty the Sultan would be the greatest gainer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 60.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 13.*)

(No. 157. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 4, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter from the Rev. Mr. Barnum, an American missionary long established at Kharpoot, with whom I have been for some time in communication, and from whom I have frequently received interesting information which I have communicated to your Lordship. Your Lordship will perceive with satisfaction the high praise bestowed by Mr. Barnum on Major Trotter. His suggestions with regard to the administration of the Vakoufs in Turkey are well deserving of consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 60.

The Rev. H. Barnum to Sir A. H. Layard.

My Dear Sir Henry, *Kharpoot, January 2, 1880.*

AS I have already informed your Excellency, the only object which I had in view in opening a correspondence was to aid your Excellency in becoming acquainted with the deplorable condition into which the country has fallen. The examples which I have cited were not mentioned as exceptional ones, but merely as illustrating this point.

Having the conviction forced upon me by a more than twenty years residence in this country that the Government in their later days was corrupt beyond the power of cleansing and rapidly tending to disintegration, it seemed to me and to my associates that it was very desirable that the Representative of Her Majesty at Constantinople should become acquainted with the state of affairs, and there being no Consul in this part of the country, I have taken the liberty to trouble you with my communication.

The kindness with which my letters have been received has secured my gratitude, and it will never be forgotten.

Now, however, in the presence of Her Majesty's Consuls, the necessity for my writing does not seem to exist. I discovered during the recent visit of Major Trotter here, that considering the length of time that he has been in the country, he has become exceedingly well acquainted with the condition of affairs politically and socially. From him and from looking over the Blue Book, I learn, too, that your Excellency and Her Majesty's Government have been furnished with a much larger amount of information than I had supposed, and I am sorry to say that the future is not yet relieved by any gleam of light. The shades grow darker and darker.

Major Trotter made a most favourable impression here upon all with whom he came in contact, although his visit was very brief. Her Majesty's Government is to be congratulated upon the possession of such a Representative, for the difficult and delicate position which he holds. I had uniformly heard him highly commended, but as my guest and acting as his interpreter, a more intimate acquaintance increased my respect for him very much.

In this connection I may say that the visit of Major Trotter here was the subject of a good deal of conversation among the people as to its object.

The desire among the Christian population is universal that the English Govern-

ment might assume the control of affairs, and even the Turks, I am credibly informed, would welcome such an event with no little favour. Since Major Trotter left here, I have conversed with some of the leading members of the Ulema, a body which in Kharpout is quite conspicuous, and I find that they have relinquished the hope that this Government will ever reform itself. A common form of expression among all classes of Turks, aside from those who hold the offices, is "may God send a good master to the country," and with all classes the prestige of England is superior to that of any other country.

Matters appear to me to have reached their limit. The corruption of officials was never more open than now.

The Government is the subject of universal reproach and detestation. The distress among the soldiers and the poorer classes of those connected with the civil service is extreme. The disaffection is so great that a spark might produce a great explosion. In that event it seems to me the issue would be likely to be anarchy in England.

It is needless to inform your Excellency that the Reform Commission business is "played out," at least so far as this district and the Erzeroum district are concerned. The outcome of the whole performance in this part of the country has been evil and not good, except to destroy any hope which the people may have entertained that the Government will or can reform itself.

Usnossi Effendi has left for Constantinople. He will doubtless seek the acquaintance of your Excellency. You will readily see that while he is a great talker he is not a man of much weight of character. He is honest and energetic, but it would not be desirable to send him again to this part of the country. He has but little influence now.

One of the reforms which needs alteration and which does not seem difficult, is the reclaiming of the Vakouf property from the hands of those who now administer it for their own personal gain, and appropriating it to its legitimate ends. Of course you perfectly understand its original intention. The Vakouf revenues in this part of the country are very large, but they are now almost entirely devoted to enriching those who administer them.

Mosques and schools are neglected, and the revenue which was designed for their support is in private hands. As a member of the Board of Education for this sandjak, I have had occasion to look into this matter of late, and I find the case as I have stated above.

Were the Government to constitute a Special Evkaf Department with a Special Commissioner in each district to take possession of the revenues, to fix suitable salaries for each teacher and servant of the mosques who are entitled to pay, the schools could be at once put upon an improved basis, and the Treasury be relieved of every charge for schools; the mosques would be better served, and a good surplus would accrue for general purposes. Whenever the subject of taking possession of the Vakouf property by the Government has been spoken of in the papers, I have noticed that it has been said that this plan would advance Moslem fanaticism, &c., and I myself supposed it was true, but now I know that the plan I suggest above would meet with great favour. Of course the wealthy administrators would oppose it, as it is they who raise the cry of danger whenever it is proposed. Many a poor man would be fairly paid for service for which he now receives a mere pittance. Schools could be built and improved, and to the orthodox and zealous Moslem the great reproach that the sacred funds are misapplied and stolen would be taken away to throw these revenues into the great maw of the National Treasury to be swallowed up there, even with the promise of salaries from the Treasury it would not be relished, for it could, as the finances are now administered, be regarded as lost. Still I think even that plan would not be more objectionable to the majority than is the present.

I cannot understand how the whole mess can be reformed without reforming the parts; how the nation can be set right without an attempt to reach individuals; who genuine progress can be inaugurated without education. It is with this in mind that I have ventured to call attention to this matter. I did not think to present it formally to Major Trotter while here, but I shall mention it in my next letter to him.

Accept, &c.
(Signed) H. A. BARNUM.

No. 61.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 158.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 4, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Colonel Wilson, forwarding a Report from Captain Stewart on the Vilayet of Konieh and a memorandum on reforms. I beg to call your Lordship's attention to Colonel Wilson's request to be furnished with some printed copies of these documents, and to suggest that copies should also be sent to this Embassy. I have caused a copy to be made of Inclosure 4, but there has been no time to take copies of the first three inclosures before the departure of the messenger.

I have received a telegram from Colonel Wilson, dated the 28th ultimo, referring to his despatch of the 11th, and expressing a wish, on the part of Captain Stewart, that his personal remarks on the Governor-General and others should be omitted in printing. I have received no despatch from Colonel Wilson, dated the 11th of January last, but it is probable that Captain Stewart's request refers to his Report on the Vilayet of Konieh, herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 61.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Sivas, January 10, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a valuable and interesting Report on the Vilayet of Konieh, which I have received from Captain J. D. H. Stewart, 11th Hussars, one of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls in Anatolia, as well as a memorandum on reforms which that officer suggests might be carried out with no additional cost to the Turkish Government.

The Report is prepared in accordance with a memorandum which I circulated for the guidance of the Vice-Consuls, and is the first of a series which I hope to forward to your Excellency in course of time.

I would beg to call attention to Captain Stewart's remarks on the mines, taxation, administration of justice, finance, system of government, which I think your Excellency will find well worthy of attentive perusal.

I may add that I quite agree in the desirability of carrying out the reforms suggested by Captain Stewart, and believe it would be quite practicable to do so, if the Turkish Government were in earnest.

As the Report is a long one, I have not had a copy made for transmission to the Foreign Office, and would beg to suggest to your Excellency that it be sent home to be printed, and that a few copies be forwarded to me for distribution to the Vice-Consuls.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 61.

Report on the Vilayet of Konieh, Anatolia.

THE Vilayet of Konieh, to the south of the Peninsula, is one of the largest in Anatolia. It is bounded to the south by the sea. The chief port is Adalia. The centre of the vilayet is occupied by a large plain, at the western extremity of which, close to some low hills, is the capital, Konieh. Beyond this plain are mountain ranges and valleys of varying depth, with some fairly-sized towns, such as Isbarta, Buldur, Nevschehr, &c.

Religious Sects.

By far the chief religion in point of numbers is the Mahommedan, followed at a great distance by the Greek, and then by the Armenian. There is also a small scattering of Protestants, due to the American Mission.

Number of each Sect.

As derived from the Salih-Nameh, or Official Almanack, the Mahommedans number 370,305, the Greeks 15,818, the Armenians 4,068, the Ashurefs, or dwellers in tents (Mahommedans) 3,716. These numbers only include the males, and are far from being correct. Number of villages according to same authority, 2,264.

Population according to the authorities:—

Islam	367,019
Greek	17,338
Armenian	6,261
Protestant	18
Total	390,636

In this the population of Ak Serai and Bor Cazas, also of Fertek and Shujah-et-deen Nahie's, is not included.

According to the Bedel-Askeri, allowing 27½ piastres a-head for the tax, the number of Christians will be 32,727.

Employment of the People.

Chiefly agricultural and pastoral. During the winter and spring many are employed as carriers, conveying goods on camels, &c., to Adalia and Mersina.

In some of the towns, such as Karaman, Nevschehr, Isbarta, &c., many are employed in trading.

Special Industries.

Manufactures of carpets, cotton, linen, and woollen cloth, leather, saddlery, oils, silks in small quantities, dyeing, &c. Some very bad wine and raki is also made. The manufacture of carpets has greatly fallen off, the famine, four or five years ago, having destroyed large numbers of sheep.

Factories.

At Buldur there are 30 or 40 small factories for weaving linen, employing 15 or 20 hands each.

Mines.

The most important, those of Bulgar Maden and Bereketly. At Bereketly the ore is lead, but at Bulgar Maden the lead has a mixture of silver, gold, and copper. These mines are administered by the Mines Commission at Stamboul on the following system:—The actual mining is contracted for by Government, which pays at Bereketly 32 paras or 1¾*d.* for every oke (2¾ lbs.) of lead. Government finds all transport and the fuel, which comes from a forest 20 or 25 miles off; all the forests in the vicinity having been long since destroyed. From Bereketly the transport per oke of lead to Mersina, the nearest port, costs 1*d.* and to Stamboul 5*d.* to 6*d.* The lead is sold to the Tophané Arsenal at 150 paras or 7½*d.* The mine is worked during the summer; during the winter the men are engaged in smelting. This summer about 100 men have been employed. Output, 100,000 okes a-year, which could be easily doubled. Three furnaces are employed; the fuel, charcoal and wood. The headman or Mudir reports that to pay the working expenses bavalés or orders on the Nigdeh Treasury were sent him from Stamboul. Knowing there would be great difficulty in getting them cashed, he entered into some arrangement, by which he secured the tithes of the neighbouring villages. What the local authorities thought of this proceeding he did not say. He evidently thought, and justly, that he had been very sharp.

As for Bulgar Maden, much the larger and more important mine, it is high up on a hill-side, overlooking a deep and narrow valley in the Bulgar Dagh, part of the Taurus range. There are several mines, and the whole mountain appears to be a mass of mineral. The galleries are numerous and the mine dry. The ore is reported as very rich, and, from all accounts, the mine would well repay the visit of an expert. Government pays the miners 32 paras for every dram of silver and 30 paras for every oke of lead. The miners are all Greeks. Of late little or no work has been done for want of money. The miners and others have not been paid for months past, and a heavy debt is due them. How they manage to live is a puzzle. Government gives them some small supplies of seed, with which they cultivate a few fields. All are heavily in debt, and obliged to borrow at a high interest. They appear to be a simple

and light-hearted people, fond of and taking a pride in their work. The smelting is carried on in the valley. There are sixteen furnaces, none of which belong to Government. Each furnace holds from 6,000 to 7,000 okes (2¾ lbs.). An oke of the ore yields about ½ dram of silver. The richest vein is not worked owing to the hardness of the stone.

The manager reports that he is quite penniless. He has been sent bavalés on Nigdeh of 500,000, Diarbekir 500,000, and Angora 1,000,000 of piastres. None of these Treasuries can cash the orders. No lead has been sent to Stamboul for three years. There are at present 400,000 okes of lead ready for export; they have been waiting for months.

Below the cost of one furnace burning 120 hours:—

	Prs.
Charcoal	800
Wages of workmen, i.e., 8 bellows and 2 stokers (rate of pay, 5 prs. a-day)	300
Transport of mineral	250
3 stones for each furnace	12
Charge for withdrawing 100 okes of lead from each furnace	150
To owner of furnace	14
To overseer	20
To miners	100
Total	1,246

Charges for separating silver from lead:—

	Prs.
Wood	140
Wages, special workmen	54
Wages, other workmen	24
Smelting furnace	19
Total	237

Besides these mines there are in the Taurus range several white, black, and yellow marble quarries.

Near Urgub, on the banks of the Kizil Izmak, there is an alabaster quarry. It is small, but the alabaster appears good. At Urgub are some workmen who work this stone.

What Konieh Vilayet is chiefly distinguished for are its large deposits of salt. To the north-east or east is the large salt lake or salt-fields of Rotsch-Hissar. On the 7th September last the lake was quite dried up, leaving a solid surface of white crystalline salt 5 or 6 miles wide in the narrowest part and 40 or 48 miles long. The lake is generally 3 or 4 feet in depth. I rode out for some distance on the salt. The salt is a Government monopoly, and sold at five stations along the lake.

Eighty zaptiehs look after the Government interests. Price of salt 20 paras an oke, on which the Government are said to make a profit of 10 to 12 paras. Last year 14,000,000 okes of salt were sold. The salt is carried away on the camels. Here, as elsewhere, a great deal of robbery and peculation goes on. There has recently been an inquiry into the peculation, but no charge can be brought home. The salt revenue is managed by the Inland Customs Department.

There are also other salt lakes and salt mines. Of the latter, one near the village of Töz-keui. Here galleries are driven some distance underground. This salt is also a monopoly, price 15 paras an oke. Miners paid 5 piastres a-day.

Last year 2,364,576 okes were sold.

Rate of Wages.

Has increased somewhat since the last war. During slack season, from 2 to 3 piastres a-day. In the harvest they rise to 5, 6, and 7 piastres. Labourers often get two meals besides. Labourers harvesting are frequently paid in kind. For skilled labour, such as carpenters, wages are from 10 to 15 piastres or more a-day. Formerly Government was entitled to forced labour, at the rate of four days a-year from each man. This has been done away with by the Parliament.

Manners and Customs.

There is not much to be added to what has been already frequently described. Many of the Turks, notwithstanding their religion, believe in the intercession of holy men, as witness the bits of ribbon or linen fastened to the windows of kiosks or rooms

containing their remains. These rags are fastened by the friends of the sick, who thereby hope to obtain the intercession and assistance of the holy man.

Again, when rain is wanted, a number of Hodjas or learned men meet, and, sitting in solemn conclave, select seventy-five small stones. The President, taking up each stone singly, repeats a prayer over it, and touching it with his tongue deposits it in a bag or box.

As soon as all the stones have been thus treated the box is sunk in a stream, and a watch is placed over it to see that it is not removed. This is considered an infallible means of bringing rain.

Another spell with the same object is to wear one's coat inside out. There is a Hodja here who is deputed to do so when rain is wanted. There are many other superstitions of a similar kind. Several mountains and hills have their guardian spirits, and during the recent war, whenever a battle occurred, these hills, such as Hassan-Dagh, are said to have resounded with noises resembling the firing of guns.

The Ramazan fast is still very strictly kept; no smoking, eating, or drinking is allowed from sunrise to sunset. Notice of both these events is given by gun-fire. In Konieh the fast is still very rigidly kept, and during it the Mahommedans are said to be exceptionally fanatical.

As for domestic economy, there are few, if any, families where knives and forks are used. The usual marrying age of girls is 16 or 17 years. In Konieh few have more than one wife. At Eregli, Bor, and some other places, households of two, three, or more wives are more common. The usual number of children is three or four, but occasionally Mahommedans have as many as ten or twelve. Both Turks and Christians usually get dowries with their wives. For the ordinary run of people a dowry of 10,000 piastres, or £ T. 100, is considered large. With the Turks the men have great facilities of divorce.

The Christians appear very emotional at deaths or funerals; then women scream and howl, somewhat after the style of an Irish wake.

Female slaves are at present dear, as high a price as £ T. 50 or £ T. 60 being paid for them; they are reported as much cheaper at Isnid, near Stamboul, where the price is only £ T. 25.

Feelings and Wishes of the People.

First, as regards the Mahommedans. *Prima facie*, judging as an European, one would think, considering the failure and delays of justice, the absence of all effective protection for life and property, the great pecuniary losses caused by the caimé (in this vilayet 20,000,000 of the caimé were bought up on the understanding that no more should be sent), the frightful extent to which bribery and corruption prevails amongst the officials, that the hatred against the Government must be intense.

With such a long-suffering, passive, unenterprising, unenergetic, and ignorant race as the Turks, such a hatred does not obtain. For years they have been accustomed to this state of things, and have come to look upon it as quite natural.

Recent events, such as the unsuccessful result of the war, and the great suffering it has entailed, the undoubtedly great increase of corruption among official classes, the great money losses, the, for all practical purposes, forced loans, the accounts the prisoners give of their good treatment in Russia, and of the railways and roads to be found there, the Tcherkess outrages and robberies—all these have alienated many of the Turks, and caused them to look with dislike on their own Government; so much is this the case that at the recent reading of our Berats here many of the poorer Turks expressed disappointment that we had not been empowered to look after their interests.

This feeling of dislike is, however, altogether passive, and expresses itself in abuse of the Pashas. The Sultan is still looked upon as the father and protector of his people.

Besides the mass of the people, there is a small and advanced party who, having a varnish of European culture, talk of responsible Government, Parliaments, female education, &c., but it is doubtful if they have much of a following outside Stamboul. The mass of the people neither know nor care for any of these things; all they want is to be left alone, and perhaps have railways and roads built for them at some one else's expense.

As against the advanced class there is the old Turkish party, to which class most of the Cadis, Hodjas, and students in Medressus belong. This party looks on all changes as detestable, and contrary to the Koran. They attribute the disasters that

have overtaken the Empire to the anger of Allah at the introduction of Western ideas and the impiety of the people.

As for the Christians of all classes, there cannot be a doubt that they hate and fear the Turks, and would welcome the arrival of any European Power, however much they might dislike it subsequently. Nor is this very much to be wondered at, considering the treatment they have undergone, and frequently still have to undergo.

In justice, however, it must be allowed that of late their lot has been, on the whole, an improving one, as is acknowledged by many of them. They are gradually amassing money and wealth, and beginning to make their influence felt. They enjoy, as against their fellow-subjects, the Muslims, what is generally held to be a great boon—the freedom from military service. As for the contempt with which they are frequently treated, I am afraid they richly deserve it, through their extreme cowardice, abject and cringing servility, avarice, and lying. If, instead of always whining and complaining, they and their leaders, such as the Greek Bishop of this place, were boldly to stand up for their rights like men, in the local Councils they would be much more respected by the Mahommedans. The Christian sects also, through their quarrellings and jealousies, bring Christianity into contempt. They are also unfortunate in their leaders, the priests, than which a dirtier, meaner, and more narrow-minded lot of men it would be hard to find.

All classes and religions appear to have the most exalted ideas of the prosperity and wealth of England. Few appear to consider that there also misery, poverty, crime, &c., are to be found.

Character of Food and Clothing.

The food of the peasantry consists generally of unleavened cakes, onions, vegetables, melons, grapes, and other fruits, yaourt (curds), cheese, dried grape juice or pekmess, rice, barley, eggs, milk; occasionally meat and fowls. In winter they occasionally get pasturma, or jerked meat. It is difficult to estimate the cost of living, as the people live altogether on the produce of their fields, and exchange one food staple for another. Roughly, the cost of living for a single man per diem does not cost above 10 paras (2*d.*). Where a family is concerned it is still less.

Clothing.

Rough home-made cotton articles, costing very little. Also rough cloth.

Trade and Commerce.

Exports and Imports.

Exports.—Corn, opium, hides, raisins, olives, madder, yellow berries, meerschaum, lead, silver, carpets, oranges, teffik or goat's hair, wax, opium seed.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to form, in the absence of all official documents, any ideas of the quantities exported. The inhabitants when asked make the wildest answers. In one place, according to them, the export of corn varied from 20,000 to 500,000 bushels. According to the most reliable information I could get, the export of opium to Smyrna is about 5,000 rolé, or 1,172,125 lbs. Value of each oke (2¾ lbs.) varies from 200 to 250 piastres. Export of corn from Adalie is said to be 1,500,000 bushels annually. Corn from 20 to 22 piastres a bushel.

Imports.—Cotton goods, coffee, mineral oils, some cutlery.

Domestic Trade.

Salt, tobacco, cotton goods from Aleppo or Buldur; Buldur cotton-cloth unpopular from bad dyes; raw cotton from Adana, rice, sheep to Smyrna, cattle.

Market prices, raw and manufactured articles, horses, cattle, &c. Opium, per oke (2¾ lbs.) £ T. 2; corn, 22 to 25 piastres a bushel; maddu, 8*d.* or 9*d.* an oke; mutton, 2*d.* or 3*d.* per lb.; eggs, 50 for 10*d.*; rice, 9*d.* an oke; coffee, 3*s.* an oke; potatoes, 4*d.* or 6*d.* an oke; fowls, 6*d.* or 7*d.*; petroleum oil, per oke, 7*d.*; sheep, 14*s.* to 15*s.*; goats, 10*s.*; horses, from 9*l.* to 20*l.* or 25*l.*; buffaloes, 7*l.* to 8*l.*; cows, 3½*l.* to 5*l.*; sugar, 1*s.* 6*d.* per oke; hides, 6*s.*

Tariffs.

There are none.

Trade Laws.

None except those in the law books. No guilds, corporation, &c.

Banks.

None. Some years ago in various districts societies called Munafi were organized by farmers for mutual assistance. Depositors receive no interest. Money is lent to farmers at 12 per cent. Occasionally officials manage to borrow from this institution, and consider themselves very fortunate in getting it at such low interest.

Rate of Exchange.

At Konieh, and generally throughout the vilayet, the value of the lira in metal coinage ("beshlik") varies from 120 to 130. In some of the smaller and more remote villages it is exchangeable at per lira exchange in good silver 105. Copper coinage but seldom seen. As for paper money, there is none in circulation, but debts due Government up to 1876 can be paid in caïmé exchange 350. Debts due Government in 1877 and 1878 at an exchange of 380. Of the tithe this year one-fifth can be paid in caïmé exchange 400.

Usury, Interest, and Modes of making Loans to Peasants and others.

Interest varies from 12 to 60 per cent.; general rate, 25 or 26. In making loans to peasants the lender, who is generally a Christian, considers that he should be favoured in purchasing the debtor's crop. Peasants are frequently greatly robbed in borrowing. Interest rapidly accumulates; the debtor is confused by a long array of figures, and eventually, finding himself heavily in debt, is sold up. Numbers of the peasantry and officials are in debt.

Nature of the Soil.

Generally light and dry. Although the ploughing is very indifferent, the crops, when water is plentiful, are fair.

Proportion of Land under Cultivation.

As there are no official records or survey it is impossible to answer the question with any exactitude. In the great central plain miles may be ridden without meeting with any cultivation; on the other hand, in the valleys where water is attainable, the quantity of land under tillage is fair. Artificial irrigation does not appear to be much used. A scheme to bring the water from Beyscheke Lake, by canal, into the Konieh Plain has been suggested. Owing to the famine and drought five years ago, and the number of cattle that died, a deal of land has gone out of cultivation for want of draught oxen. As instances of the losses incurred, there is the village of Sultan Khan; previous to the famine this village had 70,000 head of cattle, sheep, and goats; now not more than 3,000 or 4,000. About 90 houses are in ruins, the owners having left or being dead. Again, the village of Ulukishlar, where, owing to the famine, 25,000 head of cattle, sheep, &c., died. Numerous similar instances might be mentioned. The country is, however, gradually recovering, although its progress has been retarded by the war. In the Kaïmakamlik of Karaman the sheep and goats last year numbered 46,267, this year 62,426.

Nature and Yield of Crops.

The principal crops are (1) corn, (2) barley, (3) opium, (4) cotton, (5) maddu, (6) tobacco, and (7) hemp. There are also many vineyards; yield, from three to ten-fold; crop this year is indifferent for want of rain. In the west of the vilayet much damage has been caused by locusts.

Animal Produce.

Milk (buffalo, sheep, and goats), butter (bad), cheese (indifferent), curds, eggs, honey.

Vegetable Produce.

Potatoes, beans of all kinds, egg plant, tomatoes, carrots, spinach, cucumbers, fruits of all kinds, grapes, in large quantities and very good.

Public Works.

Roads.

With but very few exceptions the roads are mere tracks; occasionally for a short distance attempts at a made road are met with, sometimes roughly paved, and far more objectionable to travel on than the track. In winter these tracks are generally knee-deep in mud.

Railways.

None.

Canals.

None.

Bridges.

Very few. Narrow, frequently with a high pitch, and always more or less out of repair.

Telegraphs.

Country fairly supplied. Most of the towns of any consequence communicate with each other. The lines are in fair order. Official business is nearly always transacted by telegraph.

Ports.

Adalia and Alaya, merely roadsteads.

General.

System of Land Tenure.

In Turkey, as in nearly all Oriental countries, by theory the Government is supposed to be the owner of the soil. Government disposes of it, or allows it to be owned in the following ways:—

I. Arazi Mirié, *e.g.*, waste lands, or land paying tithes to Government.

II. Mulk, or freehold, pays a small rental fixed at 2, 3, or 4 piastres a dounum to Government.

III. Vacoofs, *e.g.*, lands willed or set apart for some special purpose, whether religious or not.

By far the greater proportion of the land is Arazi Mirié. The right of cultivating this land undisturbed is acquired by purchase, either privately from Government or else at a public auction. A peasant also acquires a right to the land if he has cultivated it for five successive seasons. If the holder of this class of land dies without heirs, or if it lies fallow for three years, it reverts to Government.

The Government official who disposes of land is called the Arazi Mudiri.

Mulk.—There is very little of this class of holding. This kind of property dates from a very remote period.

Vacoof.—Three kinds of Vacoof: (1) Mazboote, (2) Ghaire Mazboote, (3) Mustesna.

(1.) Mazboote Vacoofs are managed by the Evkaff Muhasebeli, a Government official. He divides the revenue according to the Berats or orders possessed by the one or more Vacoofs, *e.g.*, Imaums, &c. Anything over and above belongs to Government.

(2.) Ghaire Mazboote or Mulhak.—All matters connected with this holding, except the collection of the revenues, are managed by a Mutevelli or Trustee. In this case also Government collects the revenues, and hands the whole sum over to the Mutevelli, deducting 12½ per cent. If the trusteeship is entailed Government deducts 25 per cent. As regards this kind of holding, Government struck an average of the revenues of the five years succeeding the Teshkelat, and retain 12½ per cent. or 25 per cent. of this sum, as the case may be.

This, according to theory, but practically Government, by delays and other subterfuges, retains a much larger share, and gains in this way 200,000 or 300,000 piastres a-year.

(3.) Mustesna.—This holding is altogether and in every way under the sole control and management of its owners.

In this Sandjak (Konieh) there are eleven or twelve Mazboote Vacoofs. In the town itself there are three: (1) Sultan Selim, (2) Sultan Aleddin, (3) Karaman Oglou,

producing altogether a rental of £ T. 550. Of Ghaire Mazboote there are in the sandjak 250, producing a rental of £ T. 8,000.

In the districts of Karaman and Khadin there are many Vacoofs. Also, but to a more limited extent, in the districts of Eregli, Beyschehr, and Seidischehr.

Of Mustesna Vacoofs the only one is that of the Mevlana Téké, managed by Aziz Tchelebi. It is said to be very wealthy, but none except the owners know anything about it.

Generally few of these holdings, Arazi Marié, Mulk, and Vacoofs have any kotchans or title-deeds, the owners depending upon possession being nine points of the law. The holdings are very loosely marked out, and present great facilities for the rich and powerful to encroach on their weaker neighbours.

Taxation, Amount and Mode of Collection.

First. Taxes paid by Muslims and Christians alike :—

I. Emlakh, *i.e.*, taxes on real property. Amount 4 piastres per 1,000 on all real and unlet property. Property that is let pays 4 per cent. on rental. This tax realizes for the whole vilayet £ T. 95,000.

Under the head of Emlelk is the temettu or tax on trade. Profits, *e.g.*, 3 per cent. This tax realizes £ T. 40,000.

II. Oshur, or tithes, generally one-tenth of the produce of the crop. Varies from year to year. Prices this year :—

Nigdeh Sandjak, 45,000 liras ; Konieh, 82,000 liras ; Buldur, 15,000 liras. Tithes for Isbarta and Adalia not sold, the crops ruined by locusts.

III. Inam, *i.e.*, sheep and goat tax, amounts : woolly sheep, 3 piastres ; goats (téfték), 4 piastres ; goats (straight haired), 2 piastres a-head.

IV. Inland customs on salt, tobacco, spirits.

The salt mines, lakes, &c., are all owned by Government, which disposes of the salt at various rates.

The following last year's revenue from salt :—

	£ T.
Katsch-Hissar	75,000
Hadji Bektash	15,000
Tapesi Delikh	2,000
Kara Hounar	1,500
Hirla	1,200
Total	94,700

Tax on Spirits.—This is really a tithe, $\frac{1}{10}$th of the produce being taken. The tithe is, however, taken in money at the rate of 8 piastres per 10 okes.

This tax produced last year £ T. 200.

Tax on tobacco 10 piastres per oke. Produced last year £ T. 40,000.

These customs or taxes under this head (No. IV.), together with the tobacco tithes, which produced last year £ T. 35,000, produce altogether a sum varying from £ T. 169,900 to £ T. 200,000.

This amount is not credited to the vilayet, but is forwarded direct to Stamboul.

V. Roossomat or Octroi, *i.e.*, indirect taxes on articles sold in the market. These taxes are farmed. The following, the Konieh rates, with the amounts they were sold for :—

(1.) Grapes, pekmez, rice, beans, pay 2 piastres per camel and 1 piastre per mule load.

(2.) Copper, 2 piastres a load.

(3.) Olive oil, 8 piastres a load.

(4.) Opium seed oil, 3 piastres a load.

(5.) Paint, tefték, wool, carpets, olive oil, cheese, honey leaving for places where there is no excise, 5 piastres per camel and 3 piastres per mule load.

(6.) Sesame, 3 piastres a camel load and 2 piastres a mule load.

(7.) Melons and water-melons, cherries, apples, and pears, 1 piastre per load and 2½ piastres per araba.

(8.) Earthenware pots, &c., 2½ piastres per araba.

The right of collecting these taxes for this year was sold, and realized 45,400 piastres.

(9.) Weighing tax, 1 para for every 2 okes. This tax was also sold, and its price is included in the above sum.

(10.) Selling tax on animals, 1 para in every piastre. The sale of this tax realized 56,100 piastres.

(11.) Corn entering the market pays 1 para per bushel. Sale of the tax realized 10,500 piastres.

(12.) Sale of wood for building purposes. Taxed 4 paras in each piastre. Government some time ago handed over much of the revenue derived from the Roossomat to the Belediye or Municipality.

Second. Tax paid by Christians :—

Bedel Askérié, or tax for exemption from military service. Rate between 27 and 28 piastres a-head, beginning from the day of birth. Total amount, £ T. 7,500.

As to the levying of taxes, it is done through the Mukhtar, or headman of the village or town quarter, assisted by his Council. The village, &c., is assessed for so much, and the Mukhtar and his Council are responsible for the amount. It is their business to divide it among the different houses. That inequalities and injustices frequently occur is more than probable ; there is always a deal of grumbling, and the Christians often assert that they are taxed twice as heavily as the Muslims. Whether this is true, or whether it is one of the many lies one is so often told, it is hard to say. With taxes, as with everything else, local influence or a douceur to the official will relieve one tax-payer to the detriment of his neighbour.

As for the rate of taxation (Imlakh), it appears light. The Protestant pastor here pays only 70 piastres a-year for self and son, including the Bedel Askérié. A man who pays 1,000 or 1,500 piastres is thought to be a considerable tax-payer. In the village of Cassaba, near Karaman, the highest tax-payer paid 250 or 300 piastres. At Moschehr the owner of a house and two gardens paid 180 or 200 piastres.

Generally, an income of 20,000 piastres pays in taxes 1,500 piastres. The objection to the system is that all, whether rich or poor, are taxed ; there is no limit below which incomes are not taxed.

The tithes are nearly all collected in kind and farmed. Those not collected in kind are fruits, and such other produce of the soil that spoils by keeping. Tithes on these are collected in money at average market prices ; the owner is supposed to be favoured. Opium crops are valued in the presence of the multezim, or tithe-farmer, and the owner at 20, 30, 40 piastres a deunum (about ⅕ acre), according to yield. The multezim is by law compelled to collect the tithes on corn and other crops within a limit of five days from the sale ; should he fail to do so, Government appoints a receiver, and the multezim has to pay him.

A Government official annually visits each village at harvest time, or just before it. This official, assisted by the headman, makes an approximate valuation of the yield. Three copies are made out : one goes to the Local Government, one is kept by the headman, and one given to the multezim.

The tithes are all put up to auction, and knocked down to the highest bidder. The farming system, although opposed to our ideas, has several advantages :—

(1.) The people are accustomed to it, and understand it.

(2.) As the taxes are nearly all collected in kind, Government is saved the necessity of becoming a dealer and exporter.

(3.) A large army of tax-gatherers is not necessary.

(4.) The system is exceedingly elastic.

(5.) Government does not incur the odium of being the tax-gatherer. Some of the disadvantages are—

(1.) Farming opens the door to a vast deal of cheating and injustice.

(2.) Government loses considerably.

(3.) Harvesting is sometimes delayed.

The first objection would, however, also be made against the collection of tithes by Government. Where officials are so terribly corrupt, and when the people are so patient and enduring, the probability is that the officials would rob and plunder both Government and peasant. At least under the present system, if the tithe-farmer is too grasping the peasant can appeal to the Government with a chance of being heard. As for the second objection, the loss might be greatly diminished by providing for the bidding being fairly carried out, by making the purchaser deposit at once a proportion of the purchase-money, which he should forfeit in case of default, and by a careful selection of the assessors. At present if an influential person, such as Aziz Tchelebi, makes a bid, few, if any, are bold enough to bid against him. An instance of this occurred here quite lately ; fortunately in this case, after some delay, a bidder was found, when the bidding rose from £ T. 1,200 to £ T. 2,600.

The loss from the delay in harvesting could also be easily prevented ; even now it is not of much consequence.

As for asking the people to pay rent on a fixed sum in money, even were the land surveyed, which is an expensive process, it is more than doubtful if it would be popular. Under the present system the tithes vary from year to year with the crop, and are not like a dead weight on the people. When many of the peasantry are just living above starvation point, and have no capital whatever to fall back upon, payment of a fixed rent is often oppressive.

During the war there have been several contributions and donations, partaking in some cases somewhat of the character of a forced loan. Whatever the arrangements entered into, it is probable that no one indulges in the vain hopes of ever getting their money back again.

Lately the people have also been called upon to provide for the Teherkess and emigrants.

Cultivation of Land by Families or Communes.

Land is owned and cultivated by the peasant, or else it is owned by landlords who either let it or cultivate it on their own account by paid labour. On some properties the Metayer system prevails.

Arrangements for Public Safety.

Few and very inefficient. Occasionally on the roads small posts of zaptiehs are met with, but they appear to be of little use. In this town people are afraid to venture out after dark, assaults and rows are frequent; houses are entered and women carried off. Sometimes this occurs next door to a guard-house. The zaptiehs pretend either not to hear or else assist the rioters. Another peculiarity of theirs is to let prisoners escape. On the whole, considering the incapacity of the zaptiehs and their officers, and the inefficiency of the arrangements, it is a matter for surprise that more murders, robberies, rapes, &c., do not occur.

Police Force, Number and how Paid.

The police force for the vilayet numbers—

1. A colonel with a salary of 2,000 piastres a-month.
2. A major, 1,000 piastres, and four captains, united salary 1,800 piastres per month.

The zaptiehs number 650 mounted and 400 foot.

A mounted zaptieh receives 150 piastres, including the ration for his horse. A foot zaptieh 70 piastres. Their pay is generally three or four months in arrears.

In some of the cazas the following is the proportion of zaptiehs to population:—

1. Urgub: 15 zaptiehs, population 10,975, males.
2. Nevschehir: 25 zaptiehs, population 15,495, males.
3. Karaman: 18 zaptiehs, population 11,560.

Administration of Justice.

At Konieh, the capital of the vilayet, there were, a short time ago, the four following Courts:—

I. The Sheri—sole Judge the Cadi, salary, 5,000 piastres. Belonging to this Court is the Mufti, who advises clients on points of law, and receives a certain percentage on cases tried. This Court judges according to the religious law.

II. The Istinaff, or Court of Appeal (Civil Law), President the Cadi, with no increase of salary. Three Mahommedan and three Christian members, with a united salary of 1,710 piastres (some of the members were not paid), five clerks with a joint salary of 2,605 piastres.

III. The Bedayet, or Temiz-i-Hukkuk, Court of First Instance, President, 4,500 piastres; two Mahommedan and two Christian members, united salary, 1,000 piastres; nine clerks, united salaries 1,870 piastres.

IV. Tijaret, or Court for trade disputes, President, 3,000 piastres, and four Christian and two Mahommedan members, clerks, &c.

In a sandjak three Courts, the Sheri, the Bedayet, the Tijaret. The two first were presided over by the Cadi, who could receive appeals from the cazas.

In a caza—one Court, the Daavai, President, the Naib, an official of inferior rank to a Cadi. Four members. If the Court judges according to Sheri Law the Naib is sole Judge.

Recently the following changes have been introduced: The Istinaff and the Bedayet have each been divided into a civil and criminal division, each with its own officers.

For each sandjak a Mudaioumoun, on a salary of 2,000 piastres a-month. For the vilayet a Mudaioumoun, with a salary of 4,000 piastres, and a Mufettish or Inspector on a salary of 10,000 piastres, have been appointed.

The following the cost at present of the Law Courts:—

I. Istinaff (Hukkukh or Civil division), President, Cadi, 5,000 piastres; two paid members, 1,000 piastres each; clerks, &c., 1,900 piastres.

II. Istinaff (Jenayet or Criminal division), President, 4,000 piastres; two paid members, 1,000 piastres each; clerks, &c., 900 piastres.

III. Bedayet (Hukkukh), President, 4,000 piastres; two paid members, 400 piastres each; clerks, &c., 1,500 piastres.

IV. Bedayet (Jenayet), President, 3,000 piastres; one member, 400 piastres; clerks, &c., 900 piastres.

Generally pure and independent justice is with difficulty to be found. Bribery and corruption are widely practised, and verdicts are for the most powerful or the highest bidders. But bribery does not alone account for this state of things; there is also the fear Courts have of offending influential people, and the very unreliable character of the evidence. Witnesses are either tampered with or intimidated to give contradictory evidence, or else, feigning ignorance, give none at all. There is nothing extraordinary in hearing the witness to an assault or murder calmly state that he saw nothing. There would appear to be no law against perjury or contempt of Court; at any rate none is put in force. Where private individuals as well as officials are so corrupt it is impossible to expect pure Courts. The election of the members by the people is another reason for this state of things, as frequently men quite unversed in law or quite unfit from character or ability are elected.

The Cadi at Konieh, similar to most of his class, is fanatical, but in other respects he is fairly just so long as his interests or opinions do not clash with his duties. With the exception of the Tijaret Court, Christian evidence is nowhere taken as against a Mahommedan. I believe this obtains throughout the whole vilayet.

Besides the failures there are the delays of justice. Applicants have to wait for weeks and weeks to get their business done, unless they can hasten the proceedings by a judicious bribe.

In criminal cases this is especially to be deplored, the accused having probably to remain in prison for months, where, besides the loss of liberty, he is obliged to associate with prisoners of the worst description. Another grievance is the despotic and irresponsible way in which people are committed to prison. A gentleman assures me that by simply giving an order he can get anyone committed and kept in prison.

An instance of this is Ajib Bodos Effendi, a resident of Urgub, who was five years in prison at Angora on a charge of robbery. His case was never inquired into, and he was at last released after being mulcted of £T. 1,070.

All with whom I have spoken, official or non-official, agree that the present changes in the Courts are quite unnecessary and very ill-timed. The present seems unfit for an increase of expenditure. Government is very hard pressed for money, the salaries of many of the officials are in arrears, and it is only quite lately that 10 per cent. of those salaries have been cut down. It is also evident that the salaries of the clerks and lower officials in these Courts are too small. It is hard to resist temptation and bribes on a salary of 2*l.* or 3*l.* a-month, and that even generally in arrears.

Gaols.—The prisons are everywhere in a shocking state, small, ill-ventilated rooms, crowded with prisoners. At Nigdeh, in particular, the gaol was simply horrible; three or four dark, dismal dens, swarming with vermin. On entering, I was surrounded by a crowd of wretches all clamouring for justice and loudly proclaiming their innocence. At the same time the discipline is so lax that, to the hardened criminal, they cause little terror.

The administration and condition of the gaols urgently calls for attention. It is probable that strict discipline and forced labour would have a very beneficial effect in keeping down crime.

In the gaols, as everywhere else, money can do a great deal. By means of it, or influential friends, prisoners frequently evade their sentence.

Administration of Finance.

The head of this Department for a vilayet is the Defterdar. By a recent reform this name has been changed into Oumoumi-Mallié Mudiri. Salary, 7,000 piastres, or about 48*l.*, a-month. Under him in each sandjak a Muhasebejee, salary piastres; and in each caza a Mal-Mudiri salary.

The Defterdar's cashier (Sandok Emini) receives 950 piastres a-month, or 7*l.*, and his eighteen clerks a collective salary of 6,000 piastres, or an average of about 2*l.*

In this Department, as everywhere else, corruption and bribery prevails, nor is this very much to be wondered at, considering the salaries, and that they are frequently in arrears. I am informed that the Defterdar paid for his appointment in Stamboul £T. 1,000.

A clerk in the office, whose salary is only 700 piastres a-month, or 5*l.*, paid in bribes £T. 300.

Besides the loss through bribery and corruption, Government is a heavy loser through the ignorance of the officials. Many of the clerks are hardly competent to carry out a sum in addition. Lately the united ability of the Defterdar, cashier, and eighteen clerks was not sufficient to enable them to calculate the percentage the receipts bore to the estimated income.

Revenue.

The following is a rough, but tolerably accurate estimate of the revenue of this vilayet:—

	Prs.	Prs.
Average gross revenue (tithes, emlakh, bedel askeru, &c.)		52,568,703
Deduct—		
Working expenses (salaries, &c.)	11,283,732	
Average annual arrears	13,545,599	
		24,829,331
		27,739,372
The famine four years ago, and the bad harvests in the years preceding and following it, produced an accumulation of arrears. Many during the depreciation of the caimé paid off their arrears of debt, but there is still an outstanding balance due to Government on the account of		17,054,568
Admitting that these arrears will be got in this year, the revenue for the year will be		44,793,940
From this must be deducted 20 per cent., the proportion of taxes Government still accepts in caimé, or		8,958,788
Total		35,835,152

Notwithstanding that the tithes have been exceptionally well sold this year, it is improbable that the above revenue will be realized; all the arrears given credit for will probably not be got in; also some of the tithe-payers may not be able to fulfil their engagements. As for the outstanding balance due to Government for the famine years, whether it is paid in caimé or in specie I do not know; in the estimate I have allowed for one-fifth of it to be paid in caimé, or 3,410,913 piastres.

Liabilities.

In this, as in other vilayets, it is the custom of the Stamboul authorities to discharge their debts by issuing havalés, or orders, on the Provincial Treasuries, and either chargeable against the whole revenue or else against particular taxes.

The money for these havalés is collected by agents. There are many of these people here all clamouring for money, and intriguing against each other.

The following are the havalés against this year's income, ending the 1st March, 1880:—

	£T.
I. Chargeable against whole Revenue—	
1. Bills from Minister of War, for troops at Diarbekir	40,000
2. Ditto, arsenal, Stamboul	20,000
3. Balance due on former bill from Minister of War	20,000
4. Due local nitre factory	12,000
II. Chargeable against Sheep and Goat Tax—	
1. Bill, Société Générale	73,000
III. Chargeable against Tithes—	
1. Ottoman Bank	95,000
2. Messrs. Zarifi	30,000

	£T
3. Société Ottoman	15,000
4. Some other bills	25,000
5. Bulgar Maden Mines	3,847
Total	330,847
	Prs.
At an exchange of 120 prs. to the lira	39,701,640
Revenue, as shown above	35,835,152
Deficit	3,866,488

It is evident that the financial position is far from being an enviable one. Not alone is there no money to meet unexpected calls, but there is even not sufficient for the ordinary local expenses. The pay of the officials is frequently in arrears, or else they are paid in driblets. Pay day is a day dreaded by the Defterdar, and on one occasion he shut up his office, intending to keep away; he was only brought back by the officials threatening to go to his house.

When at Nigdeh, the Mutessarif informed me that he had not enough money to pay the 30 piastres a-month due to soldiers' wives. I saw many of these women leaving Government house, apparently in great distress, and loud in their abuse.

System of Government, and how carried out.

The Government is carried on by officials appointed from Stamboul, assisted by Councils. From the Vali, the head of the vilayet, to the Mukhtar, the head of a village, each and all have their Councils. These Councils consist of *ex officio* members, and of others elected for periods of two years by Mahommedans and Christians alike. In many of these Councils the Christians return more members in proportion to their numbers than the Mahommedans.

Theoretically the officials are supposed to be controlled and advised by these Councils, but practically they act pretty nearly as they please.

In a country such as this, divided among numerous religions and races, where a patriotic and independent spirit is entirely wanting, members of Council seldom, if ever, have the courage or desire to oppose authority. All they care for is, by means of their position, to enrich themselves and their friends; as, for instance, the Christians, who never appear to expect their representatives to protect them.

Hence, for all practical purposes, the state of the vilayet depends altogether on the Vali and his officials.

It must, however, be allowed that there is much that is discouraging in the position of Vali. Everything is centralized in Stamboul. This causes endless delays, and prevents, in many cases, the Government acting with vigour, besides taking away a great deal of that interest in his vilayet that a Vali should have. An instance of this is the case of the late Mutessarif of Nigdeh. It took months of writing to get this incompetent official removed. The Vali has also little or nothing to say in the choice of his subordinates. Both he and all his officials are liable to be removed at a moment's notice, perhaps owing to some intrigue in Stamboul. If he succeeds in getting rid of an incompetent official, it is more than probable that one equally incompetent or dishonest will be sent him. He is also worried by constant appeals for money from Stamboul, which he has to forward, to the great detriment of his vilayet.

As regards subordinate officials, owing to the insecurity of their tenure and constant dread of intrigues, they fear to act with any vigour or decision. The wealthy and influential can do pretty nearly what they like, to the great detriment of the whole community. Ignorance and indolence are the rule, while duty, honesty, straightforwardness, and pride in their work are the exception. Their chief aim is to enrich themselves and curry favour with the wealthy and influential.

For them also some allowance must be made. Not alone is their salary small, but it is also frequently in arrears, or else paid in driblets. Many say, "We wish to be honest, but we must live." What can be expected of clerks who, holding responsible positions, only receive 600 or 700 piastres a-month, or 5*l.* or 6*l.*, and this is wealth to what some have. Lately an order came still further to reduce these salaries. Many are in debt, and obliged to borrow at 20, 30, and 40 per cent. There is no encouragement to those who are inclined to do their duty, or rather, there is the direct opposite, as it is well known that officials dismissed for incapacity, corruption, robbery, &c., have only to visit Stamboul with their ill-gotten gains to obtain another position, or most probably advancement.

The following are some of the salaries:—

	Per Month. Prs.
Vali	20,000
4 Clerks, united salaries	1,620
Mektubjee	3500
14 Clerks	3,800
Arazi Memur (Government Land Agent)	950
3 Clerks	750
Mutessarifs, salaries varying from	6,500 to 5,000
Kaimakams, salaries varying from	3,500 to 1,120

(*i.e.*, 6 varying from 3,500 prs. to 1,800 prs.; and 19 at 1,100 prs. or 1,000 prs.)

Notwithstanding the smallness of the salaries, there are crowds of hungry applicants intriguing and bribing for places.

Some of the towns, such as Konieh, have Municipalities. The Municipality here enjoys an income of £ T. 2,000 a-year, principally expended in salaries.

Intimately connected with the Government is the power and influence of certain local magnates. The chief notable here is Aziz Tchelebi, the head of the Mevlana Dervishes. This man is the descendant of a very old and celebrated family, the founder of which originated the order of Dervishes.

He receives from Government 10,000 piastres a-month, besides 1,000 piastres as compensation for payment of the sheep-tax. From his position he is the owner of many Vacoofs (Mustesna).

Education.

For all classes very backward. Few of the peasants are able to read or write. As for those in the towns little is known beyond reading and writing.

Schools.—In Konieh for Mahommedans there is one lower school (Rushdize) for youths, and a higher school attended by men. Both these schools receive some slight grant from Government. They are said to be badly attended and badly looked after. There are also some schools for young children.

In twenty out of the twenty-five cazas there is a Rushdize school. Reading, writing, grammar, and the Koran are taught. Some attempt has been made in Konieh to teach geography, arithmetic, &c., but with little success. Great difficulty is experienced in finding teachers.

At Konieh there has been an attempt to start a school for Mahommedan girls, but it has met with strong opposition, and the scheme has made very little headway.

The Christian schools in general are also very backward. Recently, amidst great rejoicings, an Armenian school was started at Konieh, the Vali and other officials attending the opening. At Nevschehr, however, the Greeks have got some capital schools. One for boys from 13 to 18, with a very fair library. Number of pupils 80. Two large schools for young boys; number 500. A school for girls; number 250. The accommodation is very good; large roomy halls, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, Greek, and history are taught. Also at Sinasun, a Greek village near Nevschehr, there are some good schools.

Healthy and Unhealthy state of Villages, Towns, &c.

For sanitary purposes the vilayet may be divided into two divisions, *i.e.*, the plain in the centre and the hills and high ground surrounding it. Generally the plain is unhealthy. It is covered with water during the autumn and winter, and the drainage is very bad. The Lake of Beyschehr occasionally overflows, the water reaching within a few miles of Konieh. This year has been an exceptionally dry one, and yet there is a great deal of fever in Konieh, Karaman, Ak Schehr, &c. The districts separated from the plain and among the hills are said to be healthy. In the lake district to the west there is also said to be a deal of fever.

Local Diseases.

Fevers, typhoid, and intermittent. Stomach complaints caused by the quantity of unripe fruits that is eaten.

Commissariat Supplies available.

In the districts of Nevschehr, Arabazon, Kotsche-Hissar, Karahunnar, and Khidim are large herds of camels. As no register is kept, it is impossible to know the exact

numbers. In Nevschehr Caza there are said to be 5,000, in Khadim 2,500. Corn is plentiful in the districts of Nevschehr, Ak Serai, Ergli, and in the neighbourhood of the plain. Cattle are said to be cheap and plentiful to the west of the vilayet, but large herds of goats and sheep are frequently seen in other places. Previous to the famine the supplies of cattle, horses, &c., were much greater. The late war also used up many horses.

Mode of Recruitment.

Conscription with ballot. Imaums, Hodjas, &c., are exempted. No recruits taken this year.

Effect on Towns, Villages, or Districts of Recruiting during last War.

From this vilayet 80,000 men are said to have been taken away for the war. As yet but few of them have returned. The effect of taking away such numbers can be easily imagined. The price of labour has been increased. Many houses are inhabited by only females and children, others shut up, and a great deal of misery has been caused. At Devely Kara-Hissar I was surrounded by a number of women asking if I knew anything of their husbands, and at most other villages I was told that the greater number of the male population was away.

In most villages are a number of ruined houses, but these are chiefly due to the famine four years ago, which was terribly destructive to man and beast.

Number, Race, Disposal, and Condition of the Refugees.

Eighteen thousand refugees (man, woman, and child) and 1,500 Teherkess have found their way to this vilayet. Many have since left or died. What the numbers now are is not known.

The emigrants chiefly from Bulgaria and Rounelia are a well-disposed and quiet people. They have been told off to different districts and towns, and have, as a rule, assisted by the people under the able direction of the Imperial Commissioner, M. Ali Riza Bey, settled down. Government allows for every child under 10 years 100 drs. of bread, and for every man beyond 50 and every woman half an oke.

The Teherkess, on the other hand, have given and are still giving a deal of trouble. They rob and plunder whenever they can do so with impunity, and are greatly dreaded by the people.

They are chiefly at Ak Serai, Nigdeh, and Eregli. In these towns they are nearly all quartered in Mehdressus; they get the same allowance from Government as the emigrants. Efforts have been made to distribute them in villages, but with little success. Kiazim Pasha, the Teherkess' Imperial Commissioner, is here, and letters have been written to Stamboul asking permission to form Teherkess villages.

Some of these Teherkess have been enrolled as zaptiehs, and give satisfaction; indeed, there cannot be much doubt that under a strong and able Government they would soon turn into useful citizens.

Existing Trade Routes, and suggestion for Improvement.

The chief trade routes are (1) Eregli and Nigdeh, through the Cilician gates to Mersina; (2) Karaman to Selefke and Mersina; (3) Isbarta to Adalia; (4) Isbarta to Smyrna.

None of these routes are more than tracks, and none are suitable throughout the entire length for wheeled transport. The most important of these routes is that from Nigdeh and Eregli to Mersina, through the Cilician gates. On this road there would appear to be but few engineering difficulties in the way of making a good carriage road, which would open up a vast extent of country. The next most important routes are Isbarta to Adalia and Isbarta to Smyrna.

The track from Karaman to Selefke is closed in winter.

With the present tracks the cost of carriage from here of corn to Stamboul exceeds its value.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART, *Captain, 11th Hussars, Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Konieh.*

Konieh, October 25, 1879.

Inclosure 3 in No. 61.

Statement of Government Officials in the Konieh Vilayet; Number of Villages, Houses, Population, &c.

Officials of the Vilayet.

The Vali.
Erkyan Vilayet (Staff).
The Cadi.

The Defterdar (Treasurer).
The Mektubdji (Secretary).

1. Medjlies Idaré (Council).
   Ex officio members—
   Cadi.
   Defterdar.
   Mektubdji.
   Mufti.
   Evcaf Mouhassebedji.
   4 Mahommedan members.
   2 Christian members.
   4 Clerks.

2. Court of the Istinaf—
   Cadi (President).
   6 members (3 Mahommedan, 3 Christian).
   4 Clerks.
   Mustantik (Investigator).

3. Court of the Bedaiet or Temyizi Houkouk—
   President.
   4 members (of which two are Mahommedan and two are Christian).
   7 Clerks (of whom one is a Registrar (Moukaid) and one a Mustantik).

4. Education Commission—
   Cadi (President).
   8 Members (all Mahommedan).
   Clerk.

5. Secretary's Bureau—
   Mouneir.
   3 Drafting Clerks.
   10 Copying Clerks.

6. "Evrak" Bureau (Archives).
   Evrak Mudiri (or head of Bureau).
   Registrar-General.
   Telegraph Registrar.
   Clerk.

7. Treasurer's Bureau—
   Mouneir.
   Registrar for Konieh Sandjak, and two Assistants.
   Cashier (Sandouk Emini).
   Registrars for Téké, Hamid, Nigdeh and Burdur Sandjaks, each with one Assistant.
   Draft Registrar.
   Accountant (Yevmié Moukaid), registrar of daily accounts.
   Chancery Clerk (Beit-ul-mal).

8. Titlié Idaré—
   Mudir.
   3 Clerks.

9. Refugee Commission—
   Président.
   8 Members (two Christian).

10. "Defter Hakani" (Bureau or Land Office)—
    Head of Office (Mémour).
    5 Clerks.
    Clerk for "tapou" (title-deeds).

11. Court of the "Sheri" (Bureau)—
    Cadi (President).
    5 Clerks.
    "Eitam" Mudiri," with Assistant.

12. Vacouf Bureau—
    "Evcaf Mouhassebedji" (Manager of Vacoufs).
    3 Clerks.

13. Census Office—
    Census official.
    Registrar.

14. Printing Office—
    Mudir (head).
    5 Newspaper Clerks.
    4 General Printing Clerks.

15. Municipality—
    President.
    9 Members (Mahommedan).
    4 Clerks.
    Treasurer.
    2 Horse Policemen.
    4 Foot Policemen.
    5 Firemen.

16. Court of the Tijaret (Commerce)—
    President.
    6 Members (two permanent Mahommedan members, two temporary; and two temporary Christian members).
    4 Clerks.
    Registrar and Assistant.
    Interpreter.

17. "Emlak" Agency—
    Principal Agent.
    Bureau—
    5 Clerks.
    Bookkeeper.
    Special Commission—
    President.
    5 Members (of which one is Christian).

18. Farming and Agricultural Commission—
    President.
    2 Mahommedan members.
    1 Christian member.
    Clerk.
    Treasurer.

19. Forest Department—
    First Inspector.
    Second Inspector.
    2 Clerks.
    (72,000,000 demirms under control.)

20. Military and Police Department—
    Colonel (Alai Bey).
    Paymaster.
    For Konieh Sandjak—
    "Chef de Bataillon,"
    Paymaster.
    Infantry—
    Commander of Troop.
    Second Commander.
    Newspaper Correspondent.
    Cavalry—
    Commander of Troop.
    Second Commander.
    Newspaper Correspondent.
    And the same for every Sandjak.

[a] "Eitam" orphan.

For Konieh Sandjak—			
Infantry	..	..	201
Cavalry	..	..	252
			453
For Téké Sandjak—			
Infantry	..	..	58
Cavalry	..	..	90
			148
For Hamid Sandjak—			
Infantry	..	..	45
Cavalry	..	..	90
			135
For Nigdeh Sandjak—			
Infantry	..	..	42
Cavalry	..	..	106
			148
For Burdur Sandjak—			
Infantry	..	..	45
Cavalry	..	..	59
			104

Police force much reduced from these numbers; difficult to get recruits. Konieh Sandjak was a short time ago 30 or 40 below the number.

Officials of a Sandjak.

The Moütessarif.
The Naïb (Cadi).
The Mufti.

The Mouhasselmedji.
The Evcaf Mouhassebedji.
Tahrirat Mudiri.

1. Medjliss Idaré (Council)—
   Moutessarif.
   Cadi.
   Mufti.
   Mouhassebedji (Treasurer).
   Evcaf Mouhassebedji (Vacoof Manager).
   Tahrirat Mudiri (Chief Clerk).
   Greek Representative.
   Armenian Representative.
   4 elected members (2 Mahommedan and 2 Christian).

2. Education Commission—
   President.
   3 Members.

3. Court of the Bedaiet or Temyizi Haikouk—
   President (Cadi).
   4 Members (2 Mahommedan, 2 Christian).
   2 Clerks.

4. Correspondence Bureau—
   4 Clerks.
   Registrar.

5. Evcaf Bureau (Vacoof)—
   Manager (Mouhassebedji).
   Clerk.

6. Land Office (Defter Hakani)—
   Land official (Mémour).
   Two Clerks.

7. Emlak Bureau—
   7 Clerks.

8. Treasury Office—
   Head Clerk and 3 Assistants.
   Chancery Clerk.
   Cashier.

9. Municipality—
   President.
   6 Members (2 Christian).
   Head Clerk.
   Treasurer.

10. Court of the Tijaret (Commerce)—
    President.
    2 Permanent Members.
    4 Elected Members (2 Christian).
    Clerk.

11. Farm Commission—
    President.
    2 Vice-Presidents.
    Treasurer.
    Clerk.

If there be a nahié attached there is also—
Mudir.
Clerk; and
Land official, for the nahié.

Four Sandjaks in vilayet.

Officials of a Caza.

The Naïb (Cadi).
The Mufti.

The Mal Mudiri.
The Tahrirat Kiatibi.

1. Medjliss Idaré (Council).
   Kaimakam.
   Cadi.
   Mufti.
   Mal Mudiri (Treasurer).
   Tahrirat Kiatibi (Chief Clerk).
   3 or 4 Elected Members. (One or two Christians, if there are Christians in the caza.)

2. "Dava" Court (sole Court of caza)—
   Cadi (President).
   4 Members.
   Clerk.
   (Two of Members should be Christian, if there are Christians in the caza.)

3. Municipality—
   President.
   2 Members.
   Clerk; who is also Cashier.

4. Farming Commission—
   President.
   3 Vice-Presidents.
   Clerk.

5. Various officials—
   Telegraph Clerk.
   Clerk of the "Sheri."
   "Tapou" Clerk.
   Cashier.

If there is a nahié attached to the caza, there is for the nahié—
Mudir.
Clerk; and
Voukoumi Kiatibi (a land official).

There are twenty-five cazas in the vilayet, and the number of officials in each is the same.

	Villages.	Houses.	Muslims.	Greeks.	Armenians.	Yuruks.	Gipsies.
Konieh Sandjak—							
Konieh Caza*	133	5,480	17,669	270	540	..	..
Akshehr Caza	95	6,958	8,978	716	1,422	..	42
Karaman Caza	43	4,202	8,641	40	258	..	..
Eregli Caza	56	3,832	7,022	..	206	..	..
Khadem Caza	46	2,273	10,156	..	..	..	..
Bozghu Caza	93	8,591	10,210	51	..	..	..
Ilgun Caza	42	3,545	9,103	8	..	..	..
Seidishehr Caza	54	3,517	8,676	..	54	..	..
Beyshehr Caza	75	7,718	16,670	72	17	45	..
Karahoumar Caza	42	3,054	6,664	..	..	1,273	..
Eshkeshan Caza	80	3,060	5,986	..	..	..	..
Hamid Sandjak—							
Tehartu Caza	40	6,103	15,151	2,983	273	165	..
Oulubourlu Caza	15	2,564	6,862	500	..	..	..
Yalowatch Caza	57	3,598	11,795	..	30	526	..
Karaghatch Caza	50	4,376	9,924	..	..	..	..
Egerdir Caza	106	4,792	11,464	682	..	..	..
							410
Teké Sandjak—	167	12,422	28,035	2,060	25	..	35
Téké Caza	112	6,510	12,047	582	..	766	..
Ahyn Caza	98	7,048	17,750	..	..	549	..
Akseki Caza	76	4,929	11,018	109	141	..	..
Elmalu Caza	68	2,059	8,842	..	..	..	..
Kush Caza							
Burdur Sandjak—	73	7,054	15,157	876	303	111	..
Burdur Caza	67	5,106	12,060	..	..	..	..
Asi Karaghatch Caza	53	3,847	8,242	..	..	..	..
Tefenni Caza							16
Nigdeh Sandjak—	82	9,825	8,858	1,163	463	..	..
Nigdeh Caza	51	7,501	11,724	5,536	231	..	..
Nevshehr Caza	185	6,927	21,241	860	..	..	..
Ak Serai Caza	93	5,816	10,588	..	..	..	..
Urgub Caza	45	7,230	16,670	..	..	..	..
Bor Caza	88	5,138	9,979	1,760	..	..	..
Arkasoun Caza							

Schools.—In Konieh there are one lower school and one higher school or university, attended by men, and many schools for children.

In the caza there is one "mekteb rashdigie" (lower school) supported by Government, and many children's schools.

Only in the following cazas are there "rashdigie" schools, one in each:—Akshehr, Eregli, Karaman, Khadem, Bozghur, Seidi-shehr, Beyshehr, Karahoumar, Adalia, Ahaya, Elmalu, Ishakia, Gendja, Karaghatch, Yalowatch, Burdur, Nigdeh, Nevshehr, Urgub, Bor.

Inclosure 4 in No. 61.

Number of Population of the Vilayet of Konieh.

Towns.	Protestant.	Greek.	Armenian.	Mussulman.	Total.
Konieh Sandjak—					
Konieh Cazaba	..	260	540	17,186	17,986
Khatun Serai Nahié	..	..	..	6,930	6,930
Soudirkeui Nahié	..	1,482	..	16,269	7,751
Said Eli Nahié	..	..	..	5,708	5,708
Akshehr Caza	..	716	1,422	9,705	11,843
Doghanie Hissar Nahié ..	..	..	..	1,783	1,783
Ilgun Caza	..	..	..	6,780	6,780
Arghuri Khan Nahié	..	..	..	1,274	1,282
Beyshehr Caza	..	8	..	11,656	11,666
Kyreli	..	..	14	4,077	4,091
Meda Island	..	..	..	..	45
Khadem Caza	..	45	..	6,126	6,126
Ak Serai Nahié	..	..	..	3,127	3,127
Bozghye Caza	..	..	..	15,705	15,705
Belviren Nahié	..	47	..	5,545	5,545
Ilanguda Caza (Karaman) ..	..	..	..	8,369	8,369
Ghaferiat Nahié	..	40	258	8,641	2,038
Eyuk Caza	..	..	..	2,038	7,226
Dikle Nahié	..	..	206	7,022	1,555
Karahoumar Caza	..	..	..	1,555	4,536
	..	..	..	4,536	

* No Christian villages. † This includes the mahalles or quarters of Town of Konieh.

Towns.	Protestant.	Greek.	Armenian.	Mussulman.	Total.
Konieh Sandjak, *continued*—					
Khotamish Nahié	..	..	..	2,118	2,118
Eski-Keshan Caza	..	..	..	5,846	5,846
Kotchissar Nahié	..	..	..	1,378	1,378
Seidishehr Caza	..	..	34	9,125	9,159
Total	..	2,608	2,474	148,065	153,147
Hamid Sandjak (Isbarta)—					
Isbarta Cazaba	..	2,456	2,166	5,306	9,930
Hamid Etrafi Nahié	..	..	..	3,060	3,060
Yalowatch Caza	..	..	..	6,957	6,957
Hoiran Nahié	..	390	30	2,170	2,200
Oulubourlu Caza	..	..	..	6,872	7,262
Karaghatch Caza	..	..	..	6,382	6,382
Kerchihamin Nahié	..	..	..	3,972	3,972
Egerdir Caza	..	245	..	1,756	5,001
Oghros Nahié	..	..	..	3,104	3,104
Barlé Nahié	..	133	438	1,193	2,069
Baoulu Nahié	..	..	..	2,411	2,411
Atshar Nahié	..	..	..	3,542	3,542
Total	..	3,224	2,634	53,341	59,199
Towns and Villages.					
Burdur Sandjak—					
Burdur Cazaba	..	862	360	5,290	6,512
Burdur Etrafi Nahié	..	..	9	4,478	4,487
Ibrala Nahié	..	..	..	3,757	3,757
Aghlasoun Nahié	..	..	..	4,615	4,615
Tefenni Caza	..	..	..	3,062	3,062
Gebrissar Nahié	..	..	..	5,150	5,150
Kemer Nahié	..	..	..	2,097	2,097
Asi Karaghatch Caza	..	..	..	13,000	13,000
Total	..	862	369	41,449	42,680
Téké Sandjak—					
Adalia Cazaba	..	2,021	10	4,502	6,542
Téké Etrafi Shehr Nahié ..	..	..	..	4,311	4,311
Isbanss Nahié	..	..	..	6,508	6,508
Meilla Nahié	..	..	..	2,770	2,770
Elmalu Caza	..	109	141	11,018	11,268
Serik Nahié	..	..	..	3,002	3,002
Muthash Bashkeuméi Nahié ..	..	..	..	1,107	1,107
Akseki Caza	..	..	..	9,697	9,697
Manaengir Dushenbi Nahié ..	..	..	..	4,030	4,030
Ibradu Nahié	..	..	..	4,565	4,565
Manoghat Nahié	..	..	..	3,364	3,364
Bédjen Nahié	..	..	..	1,906	1,906
Kyzil Kaya Nahié	..	..	..	1,171	1,171
Maulaikou Kash Caza	..	..	..	8,844	8,844
Ahayn Caza	..	582	..	12,885	13,467
Serikde Meskun Asheir (Yuruk) ..	..	..	..	4,855	4,855
Total	..	2,712	160	81,868	87,740
Nigdeh Sandjak—					
Nigdeh Cazaba	18	1,054	390	2,034	3,476
Ferack Nahié. (No census.)					
Gumaerdu Nahié. (No census.)					
Yahyuli Nahié	..	..	..	2,886	2,886
Akseraj Caza. (No census.)					
Nevshehr Caza	..	3,580	234	11,724	15,494
Bor Caza. (No census.)					
Shujah-ed-din Nahié. (No census.)					
Urgub Caza	..	1,458	..	9,519	10,977
Arakasoun Caza	..	1,760	..	9,977	11,737
Ayanus Nahié	..	..	..	1,491	1,491
Zili Cazaba	..	153	..	571	724
Total	18	7,005	624	39,202	47,347

Total :—Islam, 367,010; Armenian, 6,261; Greek, 17,338; Protestant, 18. Grand total, 390,636.

Inclosure 5 in No. 61.

Memorandum on Reforms.

SOME of the reforms, such as the establishment of a well-organized police, would be costly, but others, such as those now suggested, would entail no extra cost, and might even prove economical.

1. Decentralization.—At present everything is centred in Stamboul, to the great injury of the provinces. Nothing can be done without first obtaining Ministerial sanction. If business at Stamboul were attended to, this, perhaps, although very inconvenient, would not be ruinous; but when letters are either taken no notice of or remain unanswered for months the system puts a stop to anything like vigorous Government. The Vali should have the power of summarily dismissing incompetent officials, looking after the working of the Law Courts, &c.

2. The number of officials to be reduced 30 or 40 per cent., and the pay of the remainder largely increased, especially among the lower ranks.

3. Officials to be appointed for fixed periods, say not less than five years, and only liable to removal in case of misconduct.

4. Officials once dismissed the service to forfeit all chance of ever being again employed.

5. Officials never to be nominated to positions in their native towns.

6. Members of Law Courts not to be elected by the people. It is hopeless to expect ignorant and corrupt people to be fit judges of those best suited for such posts.

7. Some limit to be fixed to the money that is to be sent to Stamboul, or the proceeds of certain taxes to be kept for local objects.

8. Capital punishment to be made obligatory for murder. The sentence to be carried out in the vilayet. The relatives and friends of the murdered man not to have it in their power to accept in lieu of it pecuniary compensation accompanied by imprisonment.

9. Severe laws to be made against contempt of Court and perjury.

The following has been suggested by a Turkish official:—

A portion of the pay of the official to be detained until he quits the service. In case of dismissal he forfeits all right to this sum.

In making reforms for this country, it must not be forgotten that it is many centuries behind Europe in political and in other education, and that Parliaments, Councils, popular suffrage, &c., are quite unsuited for it.

What is required is a strong and just despotism.

The general impression among those best acquainted with the Government, whether official or non-official, is that any improvement in the Government is hopeless. All say reform ought to begin in Stamboul; it is there that robbery, peculation, bribery, &c., are at their height.

What has kept the Turks together up to now is faith in their religion; this is now being undermined through scepticism, and there is no patriotism to supply its place.

The effect of reforms on the Government is like that of putting new wine into old bottles, or like the attempt to patch up an old worm-eaten ship. There is nothing sound enough to which new planks can be nailed. Everything crumbles away beneath the strokes of the hammer.

So far, the reforms have greatly and unnecessarily increased the expenses of the Law Courts, without adding to their efficiency; have taken 10 per cent. off the salaries of all officials down to zaptiehs, whose pay was only 11*s.* a-month, and changed the name of Defterdar into that of Oumoumi Mallié Mudiri.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART, *Captain, 11th Hussars,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Konieh.

October 25, 1879.

No. 62.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 160.) *Constantinople, February* 4, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches, upon "matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at Erzeroum, Van, and Konieh.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 1. Consular.) *Erzeroum, January* 9, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to forward you some correspondence connected with the robbery of some English merchandize which took place on the Turkish frontier in the month of October 1879.

After having reported the matter to the Vali and allowing a sufficient period to elapse, during which I received no answer to my letter, I wrote again on the 5th January and received the inclosed very vague reply, from which I think it may be fairly inferred that no practical measures whatever have been taken either to recover the goods or to punish the offenders.

I am, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 62.

Mr. Stevens to M. Magack.

Tabreez, Persia, le 7 Octobre, 1879.

JE vous confirme ma lettre du 12 de l'écoulé; j'ai depuis reçu votre estimée du 5 du même mois, dans laquelle vous me promettez votre compte, mais jusqu'aujourd'hui je ne l'ai pas encore reçu. Leur caisse H. S. No. 2 qui vous a été expédiée par MM. Homgger T. avec S. T. 11 colis et N. C. 22 colis ne m'est pas encore parvenu; qui sait où elle traîne, probablement dans vos Douanes. Cette caisse contient des effets que j'ai grandement besoin. Veuillez voir où elle se trouve et me la faire parvenir sans délai.

Je dois vous informer que des 11 colis que vous m'avez envoyés 2 S. T. 348,350 de la valeur de 70*l.* sterling ont été volés en territoire Turc près de Kizildir. Veuillez faire des démarches pour les recouvrir.

J'espère que vous m'enverrez sans faute votre compte sous peu.

(Signé) HILD. STEVENS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 62.

Captain Everett to the Governor-General of Erzeroum.

Erzeroum, November , 1879.

Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to inform you, according to the letter here inclosed, that certain people have stolen in the neighbourhood of Kizildir, in Turkish territory, two bales the property of Hildebrand Stevens, English merchant of Tabreez.

Having received information that a quantity of Persian merchandize was stolen at the same time, I have communicated with the Persian Consul, who informs me that a portion of the merchandize has been already found at the house of Mirza Agha, a Koordish chieftain residing at Bayazid.

I have the honour to request your Excellency that proper steps may be taken to recover without delay the two English bales.

If it is true that this portion has been found in the house or on the premises of Mirza Agha, than I request that the law may be put in force against him, and for this I think it will be absolutely necessary to bring him here to Erzeroum.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 62.

Captain Everett to the Governor-General of Erzeroum.

Erzeroum, January 5, 1880.

Excellency,

WITH reference to my letter of the 24th November, 1879, informing you of the robbery of certain merchandize belonging to Hildebrand Stevens, merchant of

Tabreez, I should be glad to know what steps have been taken for the recovery of the goods and the punishment of the offenders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 62.

Mahmoud Kemall to Captain Everett.

To the British Vice-Consul of Erzeroum,

FOR the recovery of the stolen merchandize belonging to Hildebrand Stevens, English merchant, residing at Tabreez, we wrote to the Assistant Procureur-Général of the Sandjak of Bayazid, and on the receipt of your letter of the 5th January have again communicated with him, taking all proper measures.

(Signed) MAHMOUD KEMALL,
Procureur-Général.

Erzeroum, January 7, 1880.

Inclosure 6 in No. 62.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 3. Political. Confidential.)

Erzeroum, January 17, 1880.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to report to you that the state of affairs here at this moment is most unsatisfactory. On the 10th instant I telegraphed to you as follows:—

"The Bidayet Medjliss day before yesterday permitted five Keghi Beys to quit Erzeroum. They have not been brought back. Hassan Bey, under sentence of banishment, left to represent them. This is illegal. Ouahid Bey, native of Erzeroum, seeks election as President of Bidayet Medjliss. Porte demanded his character; Vali gave it as good. A more corrupt man could not be found, and he is a relation of Keghi Bey's. Immediate action at Constantinople can alone stop this iniquitous proceeding.

The Beys mentioned in the first part of the telegram are among the number of those who await the decision of the Tribunal with respect to certain disputed lands lying in that district. So soon as the circumstance was brought to the notice of Hussein Effendi he reported it to the Vali, who ordered zaptiehs after them, but they have not been brought back. I trust you may have been able to prevent the appointment of Ouahid Bey to the Presidency of the Bidayet Medjliss. He is well known to be a very bad character, in fact, there are few men in Erzeroum with so bad a reputation. But, apart from this, I believe the system of choosing Presidents for the Courts from the natives of the towns to be very prejudicial to the public interest, for they are generally very ignorant, and secondly, have too many local connections to enable them at all times to be honest and impartial.

Since writing my last despatch, the whole of the cases left by the Commissioners have been gradually lagging, until they may be said to have come almost to a standstill. The day before yesterday I begged the Vali to push things on, but I am afraid that unless some stringent order comes from Constantinople nothing whatever will be done, for I have learnt to know that the Vali has no influence with the members of his Government.

It is not only these cases which are allowed to stand over neglected; whenever the prosecutor cannot, or will not pay, and the crime of the defendant is of too glaring a nature, or too well proved against him to allow of its being hushed up with a bribe, there is the same neglect and delay. It is a bad state of things, and it will not better itself until there is a complete change in the present Government.

It has been urged in favour of the present Vali, Mustapha Pasha, that he is an honest man; and, so far that he does not take bribes, I believe it to be true. Yet, as a Governor, I look upon him as absolutely useless. If he does not rob himself, he at all events does not impede those around him from making up for his shortcomings. His administrative measures are absurd, sometimes even childish. He knows nothing that is passing in the vilayet, except through his officials, who hoodwink him on all

asions; deceive him in every way, and neither care for nor obey his orders. While never tired of talking of his wide and liberal views, he is in reality excessively narrow and fanatic; moreover, not having the intelligence to understand perfectly, nor the memory to remember, the numerous subjects which form the object of a Consular visit to the Serail, there is no outcome or result from the representations which are made to him. Promising everything, he performs nothing. A more active obstructionist is Nafyz Pasha, the Inspector-General of Tribunals. It is to him principally that may be ascribed most of the iniquities which are practised in the Courts under the shape of delays and shuffling in order to gain time for those culprits who pay sufficiently well. Semi-paralyzed and indolent, he is totally unfitted for the appointment he holds. His fanaticism is great, and he is very much opposed to English interference; in fact, I have reason to know that he has endeavoured to persuade Mussulmans to have nothing to do with the English Consulate, and has upbraided them for making complaints to me.

Nafyz Pasha is ably seconded by many members of the Tribunals, but by none more than by Osman Effendi, the President of the Criminal Court of First Instance, a corrupt and fanatical man who hinders justice in every possible way, and behaves at all times very badly to the Christians.

With such an inefficient chief as the Vali, and with such downright opposition in the Courts of Law, it is not to be wondered at that the state of this vilayet is not only not bettering itself, but is rapidly going from bad to worse.

Under these circumstances I cannot help feeling that until some change is made in the existing Administration, or some support given from Constantinople, it would be both absurd and undignified on my part to continue official visits to the Serail to prefer complaints which are never listened to. It seems to me that it will be better that I should stand aloof as much as possible until such time as I can be sure of receiving the necessary support, rather than bring the country into discredit by perpetually meddling with affairs over which I have no control, and which both the Government and the people are gradually beginning to see I have no power to regulate.

The people, who have been now so many months awaiting justice, are quite heart-broken. Day after day they have gone to the Serail to get their cases looked to, and, as often as not, are literally kicked out of the Court by the zaptiehs, acting under the orders of Osman Effendi. They have seen me, in conjunction with Hussein Effendi, doing our utmost with the officials here to push things on, but to very little purpose. They are now running short of money. They tell me they cannot stay here much longer, and they implore me to do something for them. I can only tell them that I have seen the Vali, and will report the matter to you, a remark which has been often repeated, and which they are very properly beginning to understand is an official method of owning my disability to do anything for them.

Accounts from Bayazid and Kara-Kilissa continue to come in at intervals, and show that there is considerable distress in these districts. I do not think any one has yet died from hunger at Kara-Kilissa, but they have lost about 150 head of cattle, and I believe firmly that the people will soon be reduced to very great straits. The last accounts from Bayazid are that from two to three people die daily from hunger, but I cannot answer for the truth of this report.

In a former despatch you will see that I stated that the Vali assured me that the vilayet could not assist in transporting wheat to the famished districts for want of funds. How much truth there was in this statement, you may judge from the fact that four days ago the Treasurer of Erzeroum was placed under arrest for robbing the Treasury to the amount of £T. 5,000. At the time, therefore, that the Vali informed me he was penniless, he believed he had a sum greater than that above mentioned in his possession. This will show you what a consummate hypocrite he is.

The price of provisions here is going up very rapidly. That of bread and meat are at this moment higher than they were during the war, and owing to inability on the part of the poor to buy at such high prices, it is to be feared that great suffering will ensue here before the winter, which is very severe, is over.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 7 in No. 62.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 30. Political.)

Van, December 24, 1879.

Sir,

YESTERDAY evening the ex-Patriarch Chrimian communicated to me the contents of a letter he had just received from the Vicar of the Armenian Bishop of Bashkala.

The letter was dated the 5th December, and described the destitute condition of the Armenian population of the district of Bashkala. In it the Bishop's Vicar states that 100 families have left the district and gone into Persia, and that the remainder are without food and clothing, and live by going from house to house begging. There is scarcely anything left among them to eat, so that men, women, and children go out into the fields to stay their hunger with roots and grass. It has even occurred that people have eaten earth. On account of this dearth disease is rife, to which many have fallen victims, and many of those who start to emigrate find their death on the way.

The main causes of this state of things are Sheikh Hamid, Sheikh Hassan, Khalifa Hajji Mustapha, and Sheikh Mahmud Emin, at whose religious instigation the country has been laid waste. Next in guilt to these men is Hajji Mustapha Effendi, the President of the Criminal Court, who is the patron and confederate of all criminals, protecting them when they appear before his Court, and doing injustice in all cases to Armenians. The Armenians of this district have reported their condition to the Reform Commissioners. Even people who were once rich are now brought to such a pitch of ruin that they cannot leave their houses for want of clothes, and are therefore unable to go to Van to make their condition known. Since the Vicar has been at Bashkala some fifteen months, he knows that eight or nine Armenian women and girls have been forced to embrace Islam.

The Archbishop of Van also has received a letter from Mar Shimoun dated the 21st December, which has been communicated. Mar Shimoun complains that neither the Pasha of Bashkala nor the Local Government has taken any steps to obtain the restoration of the plunder taken from the Nestorian churches, and also that the Government has given instructions to the Hardushi and other Kurdish tribes to plunder and persecute the Nestorian villages.

From reports that reach me from many sources, I am convinced that there is much truth in the statements about about the distress in Bashkala and in other neighbouring districts. It appears to me, however, that it would be most desirable if I could personally examine into the actual state of things in some of these districts, and I therefore propose, if it be at all possible, to go to Bashkala next week. Especially I shall try and find out if there be any truth in the statements that have reached me during the last three days from more than one quarter, that the Government has commissioned Kurdish tribes to levy money by force from the Nestorians. The weather, however, is very unsettled at present, so that I may not find it possible to go.

I am sending you to-day a cypher telegram to the following effect:—

"Terrible reports reach me about distress in Bashkala and neighbourhood, also that Government has commissioned Kurkish tribes to levy money by force from Nestorians. I propose to go to Bashkala next week if possible to investigate."

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 8 in No. 62.

Vice-Consul Stewart to Consul-General Wilson.

(No. 1. Political)

Adalia, January 13, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived here on the 8th instant.

2. Every where on the road at Beyschehr, Karaghatsch and Isbarta, &c., I found special officials busily engaged in calling in the arrears of taxes; at Karaghatsch many were being imprisoned, and I have little doubt the same obtains elsewhere.

3. At Karaghatsch complaints were made that poor people such as widows of those who had been killed during the war were being sold-up to meet these demands. How far these complaints were justified the shortness of my stay did not enable me to verify. I reported the matter to the Mutessarif at Isbarta.

4. It is improbable that the Treasury will be much enriched by these measures. The majority of these Commissioners although encouraged by a bonus of 5 per cent. will most likely only use their powers to enrich themselves.

5. As regards taxation, it is not the legal amounts that is heavy, but the oppressive and corrupt way in which it is collected. The tax-gatherer frequently puts off or refuses to give receipt on payment, and the peasant is either too ignorant or too timid to object. In consequence he is frequently called upon to pay two or three times over. It is almost needless to remark his previous payments do not find their way into the Exchequer. I have even heard instances of peasants provided with receipts paying, when challenged, their tithes and taxes over again. With such a sheep-like, dull and ignorant peasantry it would be almost impossible to devise a scheme under which they would not be robbed.

6. The whole of the west of this vilayet has suffered greatly for the last five or six years from locusts. The people are greatly impoverished and many of the poorer classes are obliged to eke out an existence on a little maize to which they add mashed up grass and herbs. Adalia, which formerly exported, is now importing grain. Hopes are entertained, though why I am at a loss to know, that the crops will escape this year. Should they not it is expected there will be a severe famine, yet with this fear before them neither the Government or the people make the slightest effort to destroy the eggs. A scheme for this purpose was proposed, but has of course never been carried into execution. Had the Government when the locusts first appeared made serious efforts to stamp them out, great misery to the people and great loss to the Government would have been avoided.

7. To the locust plague must also be added the cattle plague, the war, the cáimé, loans, &c.

8. From Isbarta to this place many and loud were the complaints made against a noted robber and murderer commonly called Rotanak. This person has for some time been the scourge of this neighbourhood. Under the all-powerful protection of Jemal Bey, a local magnate, he and his band have for long set the law at defiance, and robbed and murdered as much and as openly as they pleased. Rotanak has even carried his contempt for the authorities so far as to walk the streets of Adalia openly and with impunity. Lately, through the influence of Ali Riza Bey, the Imperial Emigration Commissioner, he has been imprisoned, but I am told his trial is being postponed in the hopes that the former will soon leave, when this ruffian will probably be released, and allowed to continue his career of bloodshed and robbery.

9. As for Jemal Bey, the aider and abettor of these and such like men, he is President of the Adalia Bedayet Court. This scoundrel is the acknowledged chief and protector of all ruffians and murderers in the place. Having but his pay, 2,000 piastres a-month, he yet lives in the most expensive and reckless manner, thanks to the bribes he receives from suitors to his Court, and the spoil he divides with robbers and murderers. He comes of an old family, and is all-powerful in the town and neighbourhood, and quite the master of the poor Mutessarif who is said to be heavily in his debt. I am informed on the best authority that the Court of which he is President has not met for any real transaction of business five times within as many months, and that even the most notorious criminals can on payment always escape conviction.

10. The result is, that the population is in a state of fear and suspense, and few if any, can be found willing to come forward and give evidence even in the worst cases.

11. Since my arrival Jemal Bey has repeatedly sent to inquire when I would receive him, but so notorious is his villainy that I have felt justified in declining his visit.

12. I purpose to-morrow to bring this matter forcibly to the notice of the Mutessarif. Should he decline to act, I shall appeal to Konia, and from thence to you by telegraph to ask your assistance in ridding the country of this villain.

13. The Vice-Consul here informs me that he has reported Jemal Bey to the Smyrna Consulate.

14. I have as yet had but little time to become acquainted with the officials, but from the reports I receive for bribery and corruption this place surpasses any I have yet visited. The Mutessarif who is said to be honest, is weak and inefficient, and quite deficient in the vigour and determination required to shake himself free of the gang by which he is surrounded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 9 in No. 62.

Vice-Consul Stewart to Consul-General Wilson.

(No. 2. Political.)

Sir, *Adalia, January* 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that this morning I was officially informed that Jemal Bey had handed in his resignation as President of the Bedayet Court.

2. I had given him the option of either fighting it out to the bitter end or else of at once resigning.

3. My reason for giving him this choice was that not alone little would be gained by an inquiry, but also that I found an insuperable difficulty in inducing any Turk or Christian to come forward boldly with an accusation. They were all ready enough to state privately what he had done, but dreaded too much the revenge of this scoundrel to face him openly. Their argument was, "It is all well enough while you are here, but who is to protect me once you are gone, and when this man, as is usual in Turkey, is again re-established in power."

4. I am aware that in taking up such a determined line of conduct I took a deal of responsibility on myself, but as the inhabitants could not be induced to come forward, I am at a loss to see what else I could have done. In view of the probability of similar contingencies again occurring, would you kindly inform whether you consider I was justified in the course I took.

5. I wish to express my thanks to Ali Riza Bey, the Imperial Emigrant Commissioner, for the great assistance he gave me in this rather troublesome matter.

6. This Mutessarifik is in a terrible state. With the exception of the Mutessarif, and one or two others, there is not an honest man in the Government. Bribery and corruption, not concealed, but openly proclaimed, are everywhere to be found. Justice is bought and sold, as any commodity in the market. The prison is a source of revenue to the Commandant of the Police and other officials. The prices to procure imprisonment or release vary from a few medjidiehs to Turkish pounds. Should any one be noted for his wealth, trumpery cases are got up against him to ease him of some of his money. Both in the town and district there is but little, if any, security for life and property. Gangs of thieves and rascals are openly protected. Should any one be so ill-advised as to capture one of these protected rascals, he will most likely be imprisoned instead. The officials in the districts are in many cases creatures of Jemal Bey, and employed by him as instruments for extorting money from the wretched peasantry.

7. The Mutessarif is an honest, but in every way inefficient, official. He may be good enough to perform the nominal duties of Palace Chamberlain, but, as a rule, he is wanting in experience, education, determination, vigour, resource, &c. Up to lately he has been the slave of Jemal Bey, and will always be in the hands of whoever is the most powerful in the place. The Cadi is intellectually quite unfit for his post. The Tifaut Reis is, I am told, a confirmed drunkard. The Bimbashi, or head of the police, is notorious for his rapacity and bribery. The Christian members, except in one or two instances, are no better.

8. This place is unfortunate in its Mutessarif. The last one was removed for his rascality, and this one is quite incompetent. I would suggest his removal.

9. Although starvation stares them in the face from locusts, no move whatever has been made to destroy the eggs. I purpose to-morrow telegraphing to Konia to ask that measures be instituted for this purpose all over the west of this vilayet. Similar measures ought also to be adopted in the neighbouring vilayets.

10. I would suggest that the Vice-Consul here be put under my orders. He has now to report to Smyrna, which would appear a rather roundabout way of getting business transacted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 10 in No. 62.

Vice-Consul Stewart to Consul-General Wilson.

(No. 3. Political.)

Sir, *Adalia, January* 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 19th instant I telegraphed as follows to the Consul-General at Sivas: "Jemal Bey, head of Court

here, very influential, great scoundrel. Forced him to resign. He now sending inflammatory telegram about. Population strongly in my favour, but afraid. Governor very inefficient and useless. Slave of above Governor should be removed at once."

2. To explain this telegram it is necessary to go over what has happened here since my arrival.

3. Both at Isbarta, on the road here, and on my arrival, I had heard such strong opinions given about Jemal Bey, the head of the local Bedayet Court, that making every allowance for exaggeration, I came to the conclusion that the man was not alone a scoundrel, but a very influential one.

4. I determined, therefore, that he should be either forced to resign, or that a full inquiry should be made into his case and that of his Court.

5. On the 9th asked through the British Vice-Consul here when it would be convenient for me to see him. I replied that I would not receive him. On the 11th the Mutessarif notified that he would call on the resident British Vice-Consul and myself at the house of the former. As he came accompanied by Jemal Bey, I declined to meet him, and sent to inform him that I should be happy to receive him, but alone. On the 13th, at the house of the Greek Vice-Consul, Jemal Bey tried to force himself upon me, but I refused to be introduced.

6. On the 14th I called officially on the Mutessarif, and told him that the state of his Mutessarilik was simply scandalous, and that I greatly pitied him, surrounded as he was by a set of rascals; that Jemal Bey was a scoundrel, a protector of thieves and murderers, a disgrace to the Court of which he was President, and that the way in which the business of that Court was conducted was scandalous. I demanded that he should telegraph to Konia and ask for a full inquiry into the matter.

7. After some delay, the Mutessarif agreed to this, and it was arranged that I should call the next day and see the telegram before it was sent.

8. The following morning the Mutessarif called on me, and said that Jemal Bey had been prepared to send in his resignation, but that on hearing what I had said, he had decided to await the result of an inquiry.

9. I replied that I did not care what he did, and requested that the telegram promised yesterday should be sent. After this interview I telegraphed to the authorities at Konia.

10. The following day the Mutessarif again called, and brought me Jemal Bey's resignation. It is hardly necessary to point out that by so doing Jemal Bey acknowledged the truth of my accusation.

11. On that day and the next Jemal Bey was visited by crowds, who came to offer their condolence.

12. On the 18th I received a telegram from Konia, intimating that Jemal Bey's resignation had been accepted.

13. That evening I heard that Jemal Bey had telegraphed the following message to the Notables and people of Buldur: "Our scheme is progressing; assistance is coming either by sea or land. Hurrah for the men of Buldur! Hurrah for those who will not spare money in the cause." I was told that the wording of the message was quite revolutionary.

14. The following day I telegraphed to the Consul-General.

15. I never attached, nor do I now, any importance to this telegram, but it appears to have alarmed the authorities, and orders were given to investigate the matter. Jemal Bey asserts that the scheme he refers to is that of getting this place made into a vilayet. My own opinion is that Jemal Bey sent the message simply to get money. It is notorious that he is hard up and heavily in debt, and this is probably one of the many schemes he has started to get money from the people. He is quite the king of this place, and lives by selling offices under Government, purchasing tithes at ridiculously low prices, as none will bid against him; protecting robbers and murderers, squeezing money from the poor, selling justice, &c.

16. Whatever is his reason, the authorities are alarmed, and it furnishes a very good excuse to get the man removed from here. One of the chief causes of the bad government in Turkey is undoubtedly the influence of these Notables, the people looking up to them far more than they do to the Government. I have made the acquaintance of numbers of this class, but have met with none who appear to be actuated by any higher motives than that of selfish gain, increasing their local influence, intriguing against a rival, and amassing money generally by illegitimate means. Roads and public works have sometimes been pointed out as done by Notables, but an inquiry will generally disclose that the only credit due to the Notable is allowing his

name to be associated with it, and even this is not done for nothing. The labour on the road, materials, &c., are given gratuitously by the poor through the influence of the Notable. To use their power or wealth for the good of their country are ideas quite foreign to their habits of thought. The officials who oppose their baneful influence are intrigued against, petitions got up and people forced to sign them, money is sent to Stamboul to purchase back-stair influence, and eventually the obnoxious official is got rid of. Hence officials, even if inclined, dare not oppose them; the best they can hope is that the influence of one Notable will be balanced by that of another. Here such is not the case; Jemal Bey stands alone; his word is law, and no one dares to gainsay it. He has got a network of agents spread over the country, who are occupied in furthering his influence, robbing and plundering the poor and defenceless, and dividing the spoil with him. I have little doubt there is not a single petition sent to the Government here that has a chance of success unless it has first paid him black mail. He is, in the fullest acceptation of the word, a thorough scoundrel, and the stories I have heard of his rascality are almost incredible. Fortunately, like most of his class, he is also a coward.

17. As for the Mutessarif Hafiz Mehemet, he is a nominee of Jemal Bey's, who intrigued to get him here, and to whom he is in debt £T. 500. This poor creature is completely wanting in vigour, decision, energy or aptitude for business. He is unable to write. He is said to be honest, but is in every other respects unfit for his post. Should he not be removed and Jemal Bey remain here, there is little doubt but that affairs will soon relapse into their old state. Even now, when Jemal Bey's conduct is so fully exposed, he dares not break with him, however much he may want to do so. I cannot too urgently impress on your Excellency the imperative necessity of his removal, and the appointment of an efficient official.

18. As for the population, Christian and Turk, they are strongly in my favour, and many, I am told, are the blessings called down on the British Government for releasing them from this man's tyranny. At a visit that was paid me by a number of Greeks, it was stated that now they saw that England was taking an interest in their welfare. Such, however, is their dread of Jemal Bey, that the dare not come forward. They say he is quite capable of having their houses set fire to or themselves made away with. An election is coming on shortly for the Idare Medjliss, and I have little doubt but that Jemal Bey, through his influence and their fear, will be returned. They are a poor, miserable, spiritless people. To accumulate and hoard money is the only aim and object of their existence.

19. I have written to the Vali, and hope he will veto Jemal Bey's election should it come off. Should he not do so, I shall report the matter and ask for your assistance.

20. As an instance of the robbery that has been going on here, there is the case of the Kaimakamlik of Kash. This Kaimakamlik was required to furnish for the war 90,000 piastres. The actual sum levied from the peasantry was 270,000 piastres. The difference, 180,000 piastres, went to Jemal Bey and Ali Bey, a member of the Medjliss at Kash.

21. As for Ali Bey, I am informed this man four years ago only owned a camel and a horse. He became a member of the Government, and is now said to be worth £T. 4,000, and to have given away in presents to Jemal Bey and others £T. 6,000.

22. Under a new President the Bedayet Court has been doing wonders, and disposed of no less than twenty-five or twenty-seven cases in two days, besides inspecting the prison.

23. I wish particularly to draw your Excellency's attention to the great destruction caused by locusts. For the last six or seven years this Mutessarillik, with the neighbouring ones of Buldur and Isbarta, have suffered greatly from this insect. Many of the poor are now living on grass, roots, berries, or what they can pick up. To this cause is also to be attributed the depopulation of many of the villages. Numerous, I hear, have been the orders sent on this subject from Konia and Stamboul, but, of course, nothing has been done. Some of the Mollahs preach the doctrine that the locusts being a judgment of God it is sinful to destroy them. Others put their faith in a Dervish who sells water from some holy well, which is supposed to be very effective in attracting the locust bird.

24. The French Vice-Consul and myself have induced the Mutessarif to call a meeting of the leading merchants and proprietors on the 27th to discuss the matter and provide money for the destruction of the eggs. It is, however, evident that unless the neighbouring provinces also exert themselves our efforts here will be of little use. Not alone will measure if taken at once save the people from famine but

Government will be gainer in this Mutessariflik alone of £T. 50,000. In view of this gain I think it not unfair to ask that we should be assisted, if not in money at any rate by severe and immediate orders to the officials.

25. I wish also to bring to your notice the result of stopping the export of corn and cattle. The practical result is to put money into the hands of the custom-house officials. It is notorious that money will always close their eyes to what is going on.

26. I inclose copies of two letters forwarded to the Consul-General since my arrival here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 63.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 17.)

(No. 8. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, February* 3, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch and its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, respecting the state of affairs in the districts of Tyre and Sidon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 63.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Beyrout, February* 3, 1880.

SINCE writing my despatch to your Excellency of the 31st ultimo two long petitions have reached me from the district of Sour, giving a sketch of the careers of both Youssef Agha-el-Memlouk and Khalil Bey-el-Assaad, and detailing at great length the manifold charges of extortion, malversation, robbery, and even murder, which have been repeatedly brought against these two individuals. They also protest against the violence, and threats of violence, by which whole villages have passed into the hands of Reif Effendi, the Governor of Beyrout, and wind up by praying that these grievances may be laid before the Queen through the medium of Her Majesty's Embassy in Constantinople. As these petitions are not signed, but merely underwritten "the trembling and oppressed but trustful inhabitants of the Kaimakamlik of Sour," I do not consider it necessary to trouble your Excellency with copies of them, for though they corroborate in many points reports which I have received from other quarters, I cannot, of course, say how far it would be right to rely upon the accuracy of these documents.

One of them, however, transmits to me, for presentation to His Highness, a petition addressed to Midhat Pasha, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy and translation.

Upwards of 100 seals are affixed to this document, and the signatories appear to be principally Moslems and Metualis, with but few Christian names amongst them.

They accuse Youssef Agha-el-Memlouk of carrying on, with the aid of the zaptiehs, and by means of threats and bribes, an active propaganda with the object of enforcing the subscription by the inhabitants of petitions in his favour, and pray his Highness not to be deterred by these machinations from continuing the prosecution of the inquiry he has instituted, and for its better success they beg that certain notables of the country should be placed on the Commission in addition to the members already appointed by the Government.

Midhat Pasha having returned from Sidon, I shall take an early opportunity of delivering this petition to his Highness, and of furnishing him with such other information as I possess in order to enable him to deal properly with this matter, should he be disposed to do so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 63.

Petition addressed to His Highness Midhat Pasha by the Inhabitants of the District of Sour.

(Translation.)
Highness,

WE have the honour to make known to your Highness that as soon as Youssef Agha-el-Menlouk heard of the appointment of a Commissioner to inquire into the abuses of which we are the victims, he sent parties of his friends, accompanied by zaptiehs, into all the villages of the district, in order to get petitions signed in his favour, and against Saïd (probably Saïd Mahommed Emin, the open enemy of Menlouk and Khalil Bey).

By violence, threats, and bribery, they succeeded in getting the papers which they carried signed, even causing seals to be made in the names of those who refused to affix their own.

They threatened the inhabitants by reminding them of the former inquiry held by Jewad Bey, and publicly announced that the Wali has no intention of taking active steps, any more than the Mutessarif.

This state of things, coupled with the inactivity of the authorities who refuse to make any opposition, gives us ground for fearing that they have the power to carry out all that they say.

Without knowledge of our just rights, moral or material, we have no longer any courage to demand justice against these tyrants, but throw ourselves at the feet of your Highness in prayer that some of the notables of our own district may be attached to the Commission, such as Shehib Bey-el-Assaad, Tamir Bey-el-Hussein, or Dervish Bey-el-Hussein, who enjoy all our confidence, and never stray from the path which is pleasing to God and to the Imperial Government.

(Here follow more than 100 signatures.)

No. 64.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 19.*)

(No. 5.)
My Lord,

Sivas, January 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of despatches relating to affairs in the Sivas Vilayet, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 64.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 13.)
Sir,

Sivas, January 22, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a new sandjak (district) has been formed in the Vilayet of Sivas, and that Raouf Bey, the First Secretary to the Reform Commission for Sivas, Diarbekir, and Kharput, has been appointed Mutessarif (Governor). The sandjak comprises the Cazas of Tocat, Zilleh, and Niksar. This arrangement will, I trust, enable a more thorough supervision to be exercised over the country round Tocat, which has for some years had a bad reputation for lawlessness.

I am glad to be able to report that the Mufti of Zilleh, against whom the gravest complaints were made to me when I was recently at that place, has been removed from his post, and is now under examination.

The Mufti, who is a notable of Zilleh, has been the virtual Governor of the caza for many years, no Kaïmakam having been independent or powerful enough to withstand his influence. Amongst the complaints made to me were that he had paid 200,000 piastres, exacted from the Government chest, and afterwards collected the same sum in beshlik from the peasantry, thereby making a profit of about 120,000 piastres; that he had sold the pasture lands of some villages for 20,000 piastres, and credited the Government with only 5,000 piastres; that in registering landed property he entered houses worth 10,000 piastres as being worth 5,000 piastres, and others valued at 5,000 piastres as 15,000 piastres; that during the famine period he robbed both the Government and the starving peasantry;

that he exacted forced labour, and contributions of wood, butter, &c., from the villagers without payment; and that he oppressed the people in many other ways.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 64.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 14.)
Sir,

Sivas, January 22, 1880.

WITH reference to the paragraphs in my despatches of the 7th October and of the 21st November, 1879, respecting an attack said to have been made by Circassians on the Greek village of Suleiman Keui, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I visited Suleiman Keui last month, and made such inquiry as was possible at that place, and also at Vizir Keupri and Amasia. I inclose herewith the result of my inquiry, which I believe to be accurate in all essential particulars; there is no doubt that the Circassians killed the son of Lazar, the headman of the village, and that they were prevented from attacking Suleiman Keui a second time by the opportune arrival of the cavalry detachment.

The result has been the imprisonment of Lazar, whilst the Circassians remain unpunished. Whilst at Amasia, I had a short conversation with the Assistant Public Prosecutor respecting the imprisonment of Lazar; he told me that the man would have to remain in prison until witnesses appeared, and he was brought to trial. On my return to Sivas I brought the case to the notice of the Vali, and his Excellency telegraphed to Amasia; the reply was that Lazar was in prison because he had told his son to kill a Circassian. Abedin Pasha again telegraphed for further particulars, but, as he has received no answer, I have requested Mr. Richards to inquire into the matter on his way to Sivas.

It certainly seems a mockery of justice that the headman of a village, 70 years of age, should have his son murdered, his horses stolen, and his village attacked by Circassians, and then be imprisoned until evidence of some crime can be brought against him. In a place like Amasia, where false witnesses can be obtained for a few piastres, and the Cadi is hopelessly corrupt, there is no doubt Lazar will, in the end, be found guilty of having committed some crime.

The Assistant Public Prosecutor of Amasia is a young man of 22 or 23, who has never studied law; has never passed the slight examination required by the new regulations; and is so ignorant of legal procedure that he recently sent a summons to a French subject, ordering him to appear before the Court, and threatening, if he did not do so, to send a party of zaptiehs to bring him by force. This matter is now in the hands of M. Doulcet, the French Consular Agent at Samsun.

The sole qualification of this young gentleman for the responsible post of Public Prosecutor in the important Sandjak of Amasia seems to be that he is the son of the well-known Kurd Chief, Beder Khan Bey, and, if all I heard be true, he is animated in no small degree by those feelings of dislike towards Christians which have been shown more than once by other members of his family.

The Assistant Public Prosecutor of Amasia is no unfair example of the class of men who have been selected to fill the new judicial appointments, if I may judge from the reports which reach me from all parts of the country. From Angora, Kastamuni, Kaisariych, Kara-Hissar, and elsewhere there is the same story of ignorance, incompetence, or worse.

The Valis have no power of control; the people have no means of obtaining redress; the criminal class alone seems benefited; and unless some change is soon made in the *personnel*, the judicial arrangements in Anatolia will fall into confusion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 64.

Statement respecting the Greek village, Suleiman Keui.

SULEIMAN KEUI is one of a group of villages, in the Caza of Vizir Keupri and the Nahié of Havza, Sandjak of Amasia, inhabited by a purely Greek population.

Soon after the Circassian immigration of 1864, some of their Beys, amongst whom was Zabit Bey, established a system of black-mail, by which the villagers paid annually a certain quantity of corn in return for protection from robbery and outrage. This arrangement lasted several years, apparently until the year before the Turco-Russian war, when the villagers of Suleiman Keui, for some reason, discontinued payment. The Circassians, chiefly, as I am informed, Aslanof, Suleiman Tchavoush, and the followers of Zabit Bey, then commenced robbing the villagers of their animals and demanding ransom for them. The villagers repeatedly applied to the Kaïmakam of Vizir Keupri, without obtaining redress; the excuse was always the same, there were no zaptiehs.

About eighteen months ago Suleiman Tchavoush came to Suleiman Keui, and, by threatening to burn the village down if they refused, forced the villagers to pay him 13,100 piastres, caimé, for this he received two months' imprisonment. No sooner, however, was he released than he returned to the village and demanded the daughter of the Kiahya (Headman) Lazar in marriage; this was refused, but the villagers promised to pay him instead the black-mail they had formerly paid to Zabit Bey.

A short time afterwards the Circassians stole seven horses belonging to the headman, who, knowing the robbers, asked Zabit Bey to have the animals returned to him. Zabit Bey replied that they were in a place called Yar Bash, and would be delivered to anyone who was sent for them. Upon this, the headman sent his eldest son, who, on arriving at Yar Bash, was murdered by the Circas-ians. The body was carried to a village and left unburied. An inquiry was then made by the Government of Vizir Keupri, during which Zabit Bey disappeared. This murder created a blood feud between the Greeks and Circassians, and increased the ill-feeling already existing between them.

After a short time Zabit Bey, having arranged matters with the Government officials, returned, and robberies again commenced. The villagers applied to Government for protection, and, in revenge, Zabit Bey went to Suleiman Keui with forty Circassians. The villagers, seeing no chance of protection from Government, determined to defend themselves, and firing, which lasted several hours, commenced on both sides. The houses were struck by a few bullets, but no one appears to have been hurt on either side. During the skirmish, the village priest went to the nearest telegraph station and telegraphed to the Mutessarif of Amasia, the Vali of Sivas, the Patriarch, and the Minister of the Interior. The telegram, which was couched in very alarming terms, and described the village as having been sacked, was given to the Mutessarif on the evening of the 1st October whilst he was paying me a visit.

The Mutessarif told me that he had no zaptiehs, and asked my advice. I suggested that he should at once send the cavalry detachment at Amasia, and this suggestion was acted upon a few hours afterwards. The telegram to the Vali reached him whilst *en route* from Kharpût to Sivas. Abedin Pasha telegraphed to the Mutessarif that if the disturbances did not cease at once he would supersede him without reference to Constantinople.

A few days afterwards the Circassians, 100 strong, again assembled with a view of attacking the village; by this time, however, the troops had arrived, and the Circassians, after a parley with the officer commanding, retired. The Circassians now, with a view of explaining their conduct, said that two Circassians, on their way to Samsun with goods, had been killed and their bodies found near Suleiman Keui. The Kaïmakam of Vizir Keupri went to Suleiman Keui to examine into the matter, but could find no trace of a struggle, of blood, or of the bodies. No one knew the names of the Circassians who were said to have been killed, or of the people with whom they were reported to have been travelling. This was confirmed to me by the Kaïmakam of Vizir Keupri. The villagers denied having killed anyone in cold blood, though they acknowledged some of the Circassians might have been killed or wounded in the skirmish a few days previously; of this, however, there was no complaint.

It is believed by many persons at Amasia that the counter-accusation brought by the Circassians was suggested to them by Fetiah Effendi, the accountant to the zaptieh force (Tahor Kiatib), who accompanied the cavalry to Suleiman Keui, and who is generally credited with being in league with the robbers in the sandjak, and with being the friend who opens the prison gates to them when they are confined.

No attempt appears to have been made to capture the Circassians who attacked the village, but the headman, Lazar, a man 70 years of age, was brought to Amasia and placed in prison. Two Circassians then appeared and deposed that the son of Lazar had killed a Circassian; as the son could not be found, the father was imprisoned pending trial. The Circassians afterwards disappeared; no witnesses have been brought forward, and Lazar remains in prison.

The villagers state that amongst the Circassians who assembled to attack the village were Zabit Bey, Aslanghiri, his son, Suleiman Tchavoush, Kel Zakaria, and Topal Mirza, men whose names are well known in the sandjak. Aslanghiri and Kel Zakaria are now in prison awaiting trial for the robbery of a caravan near Marsivan.

Inclosure 4 in No. 64.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 15.)

Sivas, January 23, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, on the 13th December last, when I was at Vizir Keupri, the acting Kaïmakam of that place told me that there had been a fight on the previous day between the Greek villagers of Téké Kran and the men of Tata Bey, a Circassian refugee. He said that he had no zaptiehs to keep order, and, being afraid that there would be a renewal of the disturbance, asked my advice.

Shortly afterwards Tata Bey and the Greek villagers came to me with their respective complaints. Tata Bey, a refugee from Soukhoum Kaleh, landed at Samsun more than two years ago with 100 families. He and his people were at once sent to the Haskeui Caza, where there is no ground available for settlement, and they have remained there ever since, living upon the Government ration of corn. They appear to have left everything behind them at Soukhoum, and are extremely poor. Government having at last determined to settle these unfortunate people, his Excellency Lieutenant-General Musa Pasha assigned land to them in the vicinity of Téké Kran. When, however, they commenced building their houses, the Greek villagers, they said, attacked them and drove them away.

Téké Kran is 2 or 3 miles from Suleiman Keui, and is one of the group of Greek villages alluded to in my despatch No. 14. The villagers told me that the Circassians were building their houses on cultivated land; that the formation of a Circassian Colony so close to them would lead to much future disturbance; that they and the neighbouring villagers had already suffered much from the Circassians; and finally, that Tata Bey and his men had attacked them and wounded two or three persons.

Seeing that the Greeks and Circassians were much excited, and that there was every chance of a renewal of the disturbance, I promised the acting Kaïmakam to visit Téké Kran next day, and told Tata Bey that I thought he had better remain quietly at Vizir Keupri until he had received further instructions from the Government. To this he agreed.

The next day I rode to Téké Kran with Ismail Bey, the land official, and found that there was sufficient waste land for at least 500 families. The land is covered with brushwood, and I saw at once that the villagers had recently burnt several acres of the brush and sown it with wheat. This they claimed as cultivated land. The villagers showed me their title-deeds under which they claimed the waste land. These deeds had evidently been tampered with, apparently by the Turkish land officials, for the Greeks can neither read nor write Turkish.

According to the statements made to me, one portion of the waste land belonged to the Greek villagers, and the other to a Turkish notable of Vizir Keupri. The land granted to the Circassians, however, was taken wholly from the Greek portion, and the villages were about to be established, one on the recently cleared land, about half-a-mile from Téké Kran, the other within three or four yards of some cultivated fields belonging to the village.

A large crowd had assembled from the surrounding villages, and several petitions were given to me with regard to robberies committed by Circassians; the villagers were much excited, and professed their intention of emigrating if more Circassian Colonies were planted near them. I forward a summary of the petitions. Your Excellency will observe that the Circassians accused of committing them are the same men whose names I have mentioned in previous despatches.

The land official appeared not to have made any explanation to the villagers, nor to have marked out the limits of the land to be given to the Circassians. He seemed to me to have very vague ideas on the subject, and evidently intended to let the villagers and Circassians arrange a boundary for themselves. I assembled the headmen, and told them that they should appeal to the Mutessarif of Amasia, and not take the law into their own hands. An arrangement was then made by which the villagers were allowed seven days to appeal to Amasia, and I wrote a letter the same day, copy inclosed, to the Mutessarif.

The Mutessarif, on receiving my letter, sent the officer commanding the zaptiehs, a capable, trustworthy man, to Téké Kran. This officer dismissed the land official, and pointed out other sites for their villages to the Circassians. Tata Bey would not accept the new sites, and came to Amasia, whence he telegraphed to the Vali at Sivas. I explained to his Excellency my action in the matter, for which he expressed his thanks, and he then told me that he proposed to appoint the two members of the Amasia Medjliss, who had accompanied Musa Pasha on his mission, to examine into and finally settle the question when the snow melted.

I think the villagers have been in a great measure pushed on by local Turkish Notables who are opposed to the settlement of the Circassians, but do not like to say so openly. There is no doubt the villagers, Christian and Moslem, occasionally suffer much, but unless the floating refugee population of the vilayet is settled, grave disorders will ensue.

I must add that his Excellency Musa Pasha told me that the sites he had pointed out for the Circassian villages were not so close to the Greek village as those which I found were about to be built upon. I trust that the arrangement made by the Vali, Abedin Pasha, will lead to a satisfactory settlement of the matter, which has still further embittered the feelings which unfortunately exist between the Greeks and the Circassians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 64.

Summary of Petitions received from Twenty-two Greek Villages in the Vizir Keupri Caza and Havza Nahié.

THE villagers complain that the Circassians have stolen from them 50 horses, 52 mares, 58 mules, 390 oxen, 462 sheep and goats, £ T. 641 in money, 10 agricultural implements, 256 bushels of corn, besides household utensils, clothes, building timber, &c.

The church of Hadji Dédé was broken into, and the church ornaments, chalice, and vestments stolen.

The villagers of Sheikh Koyoun complained that each house had to pay Zabit Bey 8 bushels of corn annually.

Amongst the names of the reputed robbers are to be found Zabit Bey, Kel Zakaria, Suleiman Tchavoush, &c.

In several of the petitions it is stated that the petitioners can prove the robberies.

The villagers, however, despair of obtaining justice from Government, and are afraid of reprisals on the part of the Circassians should they make any formal complaint.

Inclosure 6 in No. 64.

Note forwarded to the Mutessarif of Amasia.

December 14, 1879.

A QUARREL occurred on Friday between the Greek villagers of Téké Kran and some Circassians of Tata Bey, who were about to build houses on the lands pointed out to them by Musa Pasha. The Circassians were driven from the ground, and some of the Greek villagers were wounded. As the Vakil of the Kaïmakam had no zaptiehs or soldiers to keep order, and the Greek villagers and the Circassians gave me petitions in the matter, I went to the ground with Ismail Bey, the land officer. The villagers were much excited, and if the Circassians had returned to the ground there would have been another fight. I told the Greek villagers not to take the law into their own hands, but to make a petition to you. They asked for eleven days to do this; Ismail Bey thought seven days would be enough. It was arranged that the villagers should have seven days to make the petition to Amasia, and that if the Government decided not to grant their petition, the houses were to be commenced on the eighth day, and that they would not interfere with the Circassians.

There is enough waste land for the Circassians, but the places where the villages are to be built are too close to the cultivated fields of the Greeks, and nearly all the land given to the Circassians is close to the Greek village; for this land, though uncultivated, the Greeks hold cochans (title-deeds).

I told the Greek villagers the Government could give uncultivated land to any one they wished; but I think some experienced person should be sent from Amasia to arrange the affair, which may lead to much disturbance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON,
Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General.

Inclosure 7 in No. 64.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 16.)

Sir, *Sivas, January* 23, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have frequently had occasion, whilst travelling in the Vilayet of Sivas, to notice the want of forethought shown by the Local Government in the settlement of the refugees, and the apparent absence of any definite plan for their distribution. I have also had my attention drawn, on more than one occasion, to the unfriendly feeling, sometimes amounting to open hostility, which is growing up between the peasantry and the refugees.

The refugee question is such a difficult one to deal with, and the manner in which it is solved will have such a lasting effect for good or evil on the future of this part of Anatolia, that I felt it my duty, on returning to Sivas, to call the attention of the Vali to the matter in a note, a copy of which I inclose.

His Excellency is fully aware of the importance of the question, but owing to the advanced state of the season when he arrived from Kharput, and press of other work, he was unable to turn his attention to it last year. He told me that he intended, early in March, to form a Commission to examine the lists of waste lands in the cazas; to assign such lands, in due proportion, to the refugees, and to settle the latter permanently as soon as possible. In the case of those refugees who have neither agricultural implements nor oxen, Abedin Pasha proposes to have the ground allotted to them cultivated by the peasantry of the neighbouring villages; the villagers will plough the land and Government will provide seed corn. This crop will not be available, at the earliest, until autumn, and, if the spring sowing is missed, not until next year, and, as Government has ordered the supply of corn rations to the refugees to cease at the end of February, between 10,000 and 15,000 persons will for several months be without any means of subsistence. His Excellency told me that, as he had heard the winter was severe here, and that the mills could not work then, he had, before the frost set in, directed rations of corn to the end of March to be issued to the refugees; he seemed confident that, with some funds available in the caza chests, and the proceeds of a public subscription which he intended to open, he could support the refugees until they were able to gather in their own harvest; he added, however, that this was all that could be done in the vilayet, and that he would be unable to meet the requirements of the threatened immigration from Kars without assistance from Imperial funds. Abedin Pasha saw how necessary it was to supply the refugees with the means of cultivating their lands, ploughs, oxen, &c., and regretted that there were no funds available; he said, however, that he intended bringing the matter to the notice of the Porte.

His Excellency kindly promised that attention should be given to the cases I had brought to his notice in my note, and I understand that arrangements have since been made which will, I trust, lead to their satisfactory settlement. I forward herewith a translation of a Circular telegram with reference to the refugees, which has been sent to all sandjaks and cazas.

According to an official Return, which was given to me by the late Mutessarif of Samsun, the number of refugees who have landed at that place since the outbreak of the Turco-Russian war is 34,877, and they are thus accounted for:—

Denomination.	Landed at Samsun.	Settled in Samsun or Lazik Sandjak.	Sent on to Angora and Sivas.	Died at Samsun.
Abkas Circassians	12,116	1,668	7,028	420
Roumelian Circassians	6,252	964	4,838	450
Tartars	14,821	381	13,472	471
Georgians	1,591	25	1,535	31
Batoum Turks	91	..	91	..
Total	34,877	6,538	26,964	1,375

It will thus be seen that nearly 27,000 refugees were passed on to Angora and Sivas; and of these probably 17,000 went to the latter place. In addition to the above, 10,000 refugees came overland from Kars, Ardahan, &c., making a total of 27,000 souls to be settled in the Sivas Vilayet. These numbers may not be quite accurate, but they are the only ones available. The refugees have been in a state of unrest for more than two years; many have moved off south and west, whilst others have migrated to Sivas.

The refugees tell me that the population of the districts recently ceded to Russia is preparing to emigrate *en masse* this spring, and if this be true, the refugee question will become one of very great gravity, and the definite settlement of those already in the vilayet a matter of immediate importance.

The manner in which the refugees have hitherto been treated reflects little credit on any of the officials who have had charge of the arrangements. On their arrival at Samsun they were sometimes sent off in batches to villages in different parts of the country, with no one to show them the way, and no provision for their settlement on arrival; and sometimes left for weeks at Samsun to live as best they could on the scanty ration of grain allowed by Government.

Most of the refugees who arrived at Samsun were extremely poor; many had nothing but the clothes they were wearing when hurried away from Soukhoum Kaleh. Many died of starvation and fever at Samsun, whilst others died miserably by the wayside on their journey inland. In all this misery their conduct appears to have been excellent; there was no doubt some petty pilfering, but even of this much less than might have been expected. The daring robberies which at one time rendered the country insecure were, I have every reason to believe, by old residents, well known brigands, who were not slow to throw the blame on the new arrivals.

With a view of settling the refugees on the waste lands of the vilayet, the Porte appointed Kemali Pasha First Commissioner, on a salary of 20,000 piastres (about 175*l.*) per month, besides travelling and other allowances, and Tewfik Bey Second Commissioner, with 6,000 piastres a-month and travelling allowances. The objections to such an arrangement are obvious. At a time of great financial distress two officials on high salaries, paid out of the chest of the vilayet, were sent with independent powers to Sivas to settle refugees on waste lands of the extent and position of which they knew nothing. The Vali and his provincial staff were ignored, though from their local knowledge one would have supposed them to have been well qualified to carry out the duties intrusted to the Commissioners.

Kemali Pasha and Tewfik Bey are said to have obtained large sums of money from the villagers by threatening to plant colonies of refugees near them unless they made a suitable present, and even from the refugees, when they had money, by assigning rocky mountain land to them unless they purchased the right to a better location. Whether these accusations, which are generally credited, are true or not, it is almost impossible to say; it is, however, certain that the Commissioners did little or nothing; that their action led to some unpleasant scenes at Amasia; and that some settlements which they made have led to ill-feeling between the peasantry and the refugees.

The mode of settlement was somewhat as follows:—A tract of waste land having been assigned to a certain number of families, the neighbouring Moslem villagers were called upon to build houses for them without payment. I have myself seen men who had been brought several miles from their villages for this purpose. No effort was made to supply the refugees with ploughs, oxen, goats, or any of the requirements of an agricultural life; in some cases even the ration of corn was stopped, and they were left to struggle for existence as best they could. The villagers, and sometimes the officials in the cazas, have done much to assist the refugees, but it is not surprising that men, settled down under the circumstances described above, should not unfrequently first covet and then appropriate some of their neighbours' property.

If the money which the Commissioners received had been given to the refugees, or spent in purchasing agricultural implements for them, the unfortunate people would have been spared much suffering, and a large proportion of them would now have been settled and able to earn their livelihood.

At present many of the refugees, perhaps nearly one half, are distributed amongst the Moslem peasantry, in several places in the proportion of one family of refugees to four families of villagers; the villagers provide lodging for the refugees, and forage and stabling for their animals when they have any; Government gives a ration of corn to each soul. No refugees, that I am aware of, have been sent to the Christian, Kurd, or Kizilbash villages, nor have the Christians been called upon to build houses for them. The whole burden has thus fallen upon the purely Moslem peasantry, and most patiently

they have borne it. The Christians have, in places, had to bear their share of the support of the animals, and of the refugees when receiving no ration, and they have no doubt suffered more than their Moslem fellow-subjects from petty pilfering.

The refugees consist of Circassians, Lazis, Georgians, Tartars, and Turks from Kars. The Circassians are chiefly Gabartai, Tegai, Abbas, and Abskh; the two first came overland to Sivas, the last by sea to Samsun. The Gabartai and Tegai are at present in the Uzun Yaila and the vicinity of Tocat; the Abbas and Abskh chiefly in the Sandjak of Amasia. The Lazis have been temporarily settled in the Kara-Hissar Sandjak, the Kars Turks near Sivas, the Georgians and Tartars in the Amasia and Kara-Hissar Sandjaks.

It has been too much the custom to abuse the refugees, and throw the blame of nearly every crime committed in the country upon them. My own experience of the refugees, which is now somewhat varied, is that under much provocation, and under very great temptations, they have conducted themselves well, and that the percentage of crime amongst them has been small. The majority of the refugees will make good colonists, and, if properly cared for, will soon settle down and become a well ordered peasantry.

I must, too, express my conviction that the Circassians, if controlled by a firm hand and treated with justice, would form an element of strength rather than of weakness to Turkey. They belong to a physically fine race, and are, as a rule, more manly and straightforward than the native peasantry. They have also much natural ability, and would readily acquire education. Many of the Circassian villages show efforts at cleanliness and other improvements, which are sadly wanting in the villages of Anatolia. The robberies for which the Circassians have acquired an evil reputation have been committed by a few desperate men whose names are well known, and by men of other nationalities who put on for the occasion the Circassian dress. The Circassians have several well known customs peculiar to themselves, such as slavery, the sale of their own children, &c.; these can only be abolished by a strong Government acting vigorously, or by the gradual influence of education and civilization.

I would beg to express a hope that your Excellency will impress upon the Porte the very grave nature of the refugee question, its great importance from a political and moral point of view, and the necessity for dealing with it in a prompt and liberal manner. I would especially call attention to the desirability of providing the poorest refugees with ploughs, oxen, &c., purchased with money from Imperial funds, as the funds of the vilayet are already strained to the uttermost. Should the Porte consent to give such assistance, I trust the disbursement of the funds may be entrusted to the Vali, and not to specially-appointed officials, who would only seek opportunities for enriching themselves. If the Turkish Government does not come forward to assist the refugees, I fear there will be great suffering amongst them. I would also suggest that some arrangement be made for regulating the projected movement of emigrants from the Kars districts this year; the peasantry from those districts make admirable colonists, and might be advantageously planted in other vilayets; Sivas has already more than its fair share of refugees.

I would also beg to draw attention to the prompt and energetic manner in which Abedin Pasha has taken up the question of finally settling the refugees, and trust that your Excellency may find an opportunity of urging the Porte to place some money at his disposal for the purchase of agricultural implements, and such other necessaries as may be required by the poor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 8 in No. 64.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Abedin Pasha.

Excellency, *Sivas, January* 13, 1880.

HAVING travelled through several districts of the vilayet, and conversed frequently with the refugees, who have arrived from various places during the last three years, and with the villagers amongst whom they are living, I have the honour to draw attention to the urgent necessity which exists for making early arrangements for the final settlement of the refugees, and for granting some assistance to the poorer classes amongst them.

I have, on the whole, been favourably impressed with what I have seen and heard

of the conduct of the refugees; there have been, unfortunately, and it cannot be denied, many robberies of horses, cattle, and sheep from the villagers, but, considering the pitiable state in which many of the refugees arrived, and the slight supervision exercised over them, this is not surprising. Some of the refugees are known to have died of starvation, many others have died from illnesses due to over-crowding and insufficient food and clothing, whilst numbers have for nearly three years been leading an unsettled life in the towns and villages, living upon the Government ration of corn, and waiting for a grant of land to settle upon.

The plan adopted seems to have been to send a certain number of families to each town or village; Government then provided a ration of corn, whilst the villagers supplied house accommodation, and forage for the oxen, horses, &c. This arrangement no doubt answered its purpose as a temporary measure, and saved the refugees, at the time, from much suffering and distress, but it has been, and still is, in many cases, a serious tax on the resources of the villagers. Unless speedy measures are taken to settle the refugees on land of their own, they must be supported either by the Government or by the villagers during the present year; in either case, being unsettled, without a home or regular employment, they will be a disturbing element in the vilayet. It is generally believed that a very large number of families propose to emigrate to Sivas from the Kars districts this year, and if they arrive before the present refugees are settled, the matter will become so large as to be difficult to deal with. Spring will soon commence, and some system should at once be organized for portioning out the lands, and providing the poorer class of refugees with corn for seed, ploughs, oxen, &c.

There is abundance of waste land in the vilayet, but in settling the refugees great care will have to be taken to avoid future complications. In some districts there are groups of purely Armenian or Greek villages, and to plant a colony of Lazis or Circassians in the midst of these would only be to create trouble in the future. It is not, however, enough to grant the refugees land, it is necessary to provide them with the means of cultivating it; this has not hitherto been done. If a colony of refugees, destitute of all the necessaries of an agricultural life, is planted in the neighbourhood of a flourishing village, whether Turk or Christian, the members of the colony will naturally commence stealing from their neighbours; this will lead to reprisals, and to the bitter feelings which have in too many cases arisen between the refugees and the peasantry of the vilayet.

I may mention two cases which have come under my notice. About three years ago Tata Bey, with 100 families, landed at Samsun, and was sent at once to Hadji-keui, where it was known there was no ground available for settlement. Until recently he and his people have been living at that place upon Government rations, with no employment; lately, however, land was granted to them close to a group of Greek villages in the Havza Nahié, and the site of their village fixed within a few yards of some cultivated land of the Greeks. When they commenced building a slight conflict with the villagers occurred, of which your Excellency is already aware. In this case there was abundance of waste land, and no occasion to place the Circassian village close to the Greek cultivated land. Tata Bey's people are extremely poor, they have neither ploughs, oxen, nor seed corn, and, unless assisted, must live by plundering their neighbours.

Near Sulu Serai, in the Ard Ova, houses were being built for seventy-six Circassian families on ground said to belong to an orphan whose father was killed during the war; the villagers had, in consequence, thrown some of the logs brought for building into the river, and a very unfriendly feeling was growing up between them and the Circassians. These refugees, who have also been in the country between two and three years, appeared to be in a deplorable condition, and had little or nothing to live on but the Government ration of corn.

At Amasia it is proposed to settle some Tartars on a piece of open ground, in the Christian quarter, upon which once stood the Palace of Sultan Bajazid. This ground is Crown property, and, as it occupies one of the best positions in Amasia, could be sold for £T. 1,000; the Tartars are not likely to build good houses, and there is ground nearer the river which is available and suitable for settlement.

At Marsivan I was told that ground adjoining the Armenian cemetery, granted to the Armenians by Firman, and in which they have a right to bury, had been given to the refugees. This cannot fail to lead to disturbances and ill-feeling between the Christians and the refugees.

Nearly everywhere I heard, from Turks, Christians, and refugees, complaints of the manner in which the late Imperial Commissioners for the settlement of the refugees had performed their work; no foresight or forethought appears to have been displayed, and much unnecessary hardship seems to have been inflicted on the villagers and the refugees. I attribute the disorder which, until recently, has unfortunately been too visible in many parts of the vilayet, in great measure to the manner in which the refugee question has been dealt with.

The refugees, if properly settled, will be a source of strength instead of weakness to the Ottoman Empire, and I think the whole question of their settlement, from a political and moral point of view, is one well worthy of the early and serious consideration of your Excellency.

I am, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 9 in No. 64.

Circular Telegram addressed to all Mutessarifs and Kaimakams in the Sivas Vilayet.

(Translation.)

WE circulated some time ago the final Iradé which ordered the issue of rations to the unsettled refugees to cease at the end of February, and directed search to be made for waste lands upon which the refugees might be permanently settled in March next. The Iradé added that any official who did not use due diligence in the matter would incur great responsibility. In spite of this communication, and though inquiries made here show that there is plenty of waste land everywhere, replies, dictated by the jealousy and influence of local people, have been received that there were no waste lands available for the settlement of refugees.

These answers cannot be accepted, and if, after this Order, the question of providing lands is again left unnoticed, and, which Heaven forbid, the necessary waste lands have not been provided by March next, the responsibility for leaving the refugees thus unsettled, poor, and in want, will be very great. You are therefore hereby again directed to take these points into close consideration, and, heedless of illegal complaints, to inquire personally, and send us here by the 15th February, at latest, the list of all waste lands found in your respective sandjaks and cazas, and to abstain from acting in opposition to this Order.

Sivas, January 17, 1880.

No. 65.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Sivas, January* 26, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople; and a despatch which I have received from Captain Stewart, 11th Hussars, relating to affairs in the Vilayet of Konieh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 65.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Sivas, January* 26, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 22nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that the Vali has received an unsatisfactory telegram from Amasia respecting Lazar, the headman of the Greek village of Suleiman Keui, who has now been three months in prison without trial.

I had an interview with Abedin Pasha on the subject, and the Public Prosecutor, who has received no answers to his previous telegrams, has now sent a telegram ordering Lazar to be released at once on bail. Whether the Assistant Public Prosecutor at Amasia will pay more attention to this than he has to previous telegrams I am not yet able to say.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 65.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 19. Confidential.)

Sivas, January 26, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Abedin Pasha has recently received an order from Osman Pasha, who now has the control of the zaptieh force, to reduce the number of zaptiehs in the Sivas Vilayet. His Excellency has protested very strongly against this measure, and pointed out that the present zaptieh force, instead of being decreased, should be doubled if security to life and property is to be maintained in the vilayet. It is rather disappointing to find that one of the first results of the new gendarmerie arrangements is an attempt to reduce the small force in the vilayet which is at present insufficient for the duties it is called upon to perform.

I had an opportunity of speaking to Manas Effendi, the second Reform Commissioner, when he was here respecting the work of his Commission, and, in the course of conversation he told me, what I had long suspected, that the powers of the Reform Commissioners were to a large extent withdrawn during the Ministry of Aarifi Pasha, and that they had never since been restored. The Commissioners have been practically ignored by the present Ministry. Manas Effendi said that the only way in which he and Abedin Pasha were able to do anything was by putting their instructions in their pockets, and acting as they thought best for the country.

I believe that Abedin Pasha since his appointment as Vali of Sivas has also been tied down by instructions from Constantinople. He is doing everything he can for the good of the vilayet, and is, I think, proving himself a capable administrator.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 65.

Captain Stewart to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 4. Political.)

Konieh, December 9, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Kaïmakams of Bor and Ilgun have been dismissed, the former for gross incapacity, and the latter for both incapacity and bribery.

2. The inquiry into the conduct of the Kaïmakam of Ak-Lucu is still proceeding.

3. I am informed that application has been made for permission to dismiss the Cadi of Bor, who appears quite unfit for his position.

4. In the above cases, I am happy to be able to report that the Vali has acted with vigour and decision. He appears very willing to do anything he can for the better government of the vilayet.

5. I have also the honour to report that both during my recent as well as previous journey, officials, and particularly those in the lower ranks, have frequently brought to my notice both the insufficiency and as well as the delay in the payment of their salaries. They say it is impossible for them to maintain their families on their pay, that prices have greatly increased since that rate of pay was fixed, and that no pensions are given. In theory, I am informed there is a scale of pensions, but that it is practically seldom, if ever, acted on.

6. As regards pay Mutessarifs or heads of sandjaks receive 5,000 piastres a-month, about 45*l.*; Kaïmakams from 800 to 1,000 piastres, or from 7*l.* to 16*l.*; Cadis 800 piastres, or 7*l.*; Mudirs, or heads of village of districts, 300 piastres, or between 2*l.* and 3*l.*; Mal Mudirs 200 piastres, and so on; zaptiehs 250 piastres, a little over 2*l.* Of this sum 90 piastres is actual pay; the balance covers the bread allowance and the keep of their horse. Recently an order has arrived to reduce all these salaries by 10 per cent.

7. Not alone are the salaries very insufficient, but they are frequently many months in arrears—in some cases, I have been informed, as much as 6 months. The result is, that many officials down to zaptiehs are in debt.

8. I am informed that an appeal has been made against the reduction of salaries. Also that directions have been issued to make good all arrears due. In the present impecunious state of all local and general treasuries, and in view of the number of havales or money orders that are constantly pouring in from Stamboul, it is doubtful whether this order can be carried into effect.

9. Recently a number of officials have been sent into the districts to collect the arrears of taxes. These officers get a bonus of 5 per cent. on all they succeed in calling in.

10. Latterly there have been but few complaints against the Teherkess, and I have little doubt, were they properly treated, that they would soon settle down quietly enough.

11. Communications have been sent to Stamboul signed by Riazim Pasha and Ali Riza Bey, the Special Emigrant Commissioners, making various suggestions for the location and settlement of the Teherkess. Although this letter has now been forwarded many weeks, no reply has been received.

12. As an instance of the absence of all economy, there is the case of Riazim Pasha. This official, drawing a monthly salary of £ T. 200, has been here now some two or three months. For a short time he was occupied in assisting to arrange Teherkess matters, but for many weeks now he has had no occupation whatever. Under a proper system of decentralization, the work of these Imperial Emigrant Commissioners could have been equally well done by the Vali, and their salaries, or at least their time, saved to the country.

13. During my recent journey I have frequently visited the Medhressees and schools. As regards the former, the system of education, whatever it may be in a religious sense, is quite unadapted to the present age. The students, many of whom are middle-aged men, spend their time in poring over Arabic books treating of religion and grammar. After fifteen or twenty years devoted to this stuff, they appear to know as much about it as they did at the beginning. They do not even acquire a knowledge of Arabic. When asked whether they knew anything of geography, history, &c., the invariable answer was, No.

14. As for the schools, they follow with but few exceptions the lead of the Medhressees. Recently some Turks have awakened to the fact that perhaps some slight knowledge beyond that of religion might be advisable, and attempts have been made to introduce secular culture. Great difficulty is however met in finding properly-qualified teachers.

As for the Christians, as regards the quality of their schools they are far ahead of the Turks. In many towns their schools are very fair and promising. The people are generally fully awake to the advantages of modern education, and subscribe for that purpose with no niggardly hand.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 66.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 179.)

Constantinople, February 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have communicated to the Porte Colonel Wilson's despatch No. 16 of the 23rd ultimo respecting the settlement of refugees in the Vilayet of Siwas. Colonel Wilson has already sent a copy of his despatch to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 67.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 181.)

Constantinople, February 9, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 800 of the 27th December last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, reporting that the Ferik Pasha had formally denied having used the insulting language attributed to him.

I venture to think that the matter might now be allowed to drop.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 67.

Captain Clayton to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 11.)

Sir, *Van, December* 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that I received your telegram of the 26th December, asking whether the Ferik Pasha had made me a public apology, late the same evening.

On the 5th December I had received a letter from Major Trotter, saying that he had written to Yussuf Pasha asking him to try and arrange the affair, and that he thought that if the Ferik Pasha, in default of apologizing, denied in the presence of witnesses that he had used the words complained of, or if the Vali made the same statement in writing, it might suffice; but that if none of these alternatives could be attained, I should refer the matter directly to your Excellency. As, however, I had previously received your telegram of the 19th November, asking whether the Ferik Pasha had apologized, I took no immediate steps on the receipt of Major Trotter's letter, thinking I might, perhaps, receive some instructions from you. But on the receipt of your telegram of the 26th, I wrote early next morning, telling him of the telegram I had received from you, and expressing the hope that I might be enabled to return a favourable answer. I also wrote to Yussuf Pasha asking him to use his influence to induce the Ferik Pasha to make the apology required. In the afternoon of the same day, the 27th December, I called on the Vali to know if the Ferik would apologize. He replied that the Ferik being a military official he had no power over him, but that he had sent my letter to the Mushir Samih Pasha, and hoped the matter would be arranged, and asked me to see Yussuf Pasha on the subject. I accordingly went to see Yussuf Pasha, who asked me what meaning I attached to the expression "public apology." I repeated what I had originally said, as reported in my despatch No. 17, Political, to Major Trotter, that I should be satisfied if the Ferik Pasha would say that he had said words he should not (inadvertently, or in anger, or in haste), that he regretted it, and apologized.

Yussuf Pasha then went to consult with the Vali and Samih Pasha, and the Ferik was sent for. When Yussuf Pasha returned he reported that the Ferik had said that he had written to the Seraskier denying that he had used the words complained of, and could not now acknowledge them, but that he was willing to come, and, in the presence of the Vali and Mushir and Commissioners, declare to me that he had not used the words that he was reported to have used. Yussuf Pasha asked if I should consider that a sufficient apology. I replied that I could not consider it an apology, as the Ferik did not acknowledge that he had been in fault, but that if he made such a declaration I would telegraph in answer to your Excellency that "the Ferik Pasha has not made an apology, but has denied, in the presence of the Pashas and Commissioners, that he used the words complained of," and that I would write, by post, an account of what had taken place, and that if your Excellency was satisfied with the Ferik Pasha's denial I would not press for anything further.

The Vali and Samih Pasha accordingly came into the room of the Reform Commissioners, and the Ferik having been sent for, Yussuf Pasha addressed him, and said that in a case between the troops and a villager it had been reported that he had used words (repeating them) for which Captain Clayton had demanded an apology, and asked what he had to say. The Ferik then said that he had not used the words thus reported, but that he had said to the villager, "If you do not take care soldiers will come and do damage to your village, and then what will be the good of complaining to the Consuls," and that his meaning had been misunderstood. I then said that I should telegraph and write as I had previously announced, but that it must be distinctly understood that I could not answer for the view that your Excellency might take of the affair, and that my having consented to hear the Ferik Pasha's denial was without prejudice to further action if you should think it desirable to take it. The Pashas then thanked me, and I took my leave.

I sent a telegram to you the same evening to the following effect: "The Ferik Pasha has not made an apology, but in the presence of the Vali, Samih, and the Reform Commissioners, has denied that he used the words complained of."

This morning I received your telegram of yesterday's date, saying that a full apology had been promised, and asking if the Pasha had apologized, or whether it would be necessary for you to make a formal demand for his dismissal. In reply to this I telegraphed as follows:—

"I said that if you were satisfied with the formal denial of the Ferik Pasha, I myself would not press for anything further, but that my consenting to hear that denial

must not be considered in any way to prejudice any action you might consider it necessary to take."

I may perhaps be allowed to add that I think the affair in the course it has taken has given a lesson which will not be without its advantage, and that if your Excellency approves it might now be allowed to terminate.

I desire also to express my sincere thanks to your Excellency for your effective support.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 68.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 184.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 10, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum relative to the hesitation of the Governor-General to grant the usual permit for a Protestant instructor to reside in the village of Hozlov. I have brought the matter to the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 68.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 5. Political.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, January* 30, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the 26th November, 1879, Mr. Cole, one of the American missionaries stationed at Erzeroum, applied to the Vali for a "Buryutlu," or protection for an instructor about to reside in the village of Hozlov, in the district of Chanous, in place of another man removed elsewhere, unable to obtain it. He asked my assistance, and on the 12th December I saw the Vali on the subject, who gave me to understand that the protection would be given in a few days. Since then I have made repeated applications, but have failed to obtain it.

The giving of these protections to Protestant instructors is no new thing. M. Antoine Magaeh, the Dragoman to the vilayet, informs both me and the Vali that he had repeatedly applied for and received several such when he was Dragoman to the British Consulate. In the present instance, considerable opposition has been shown by the Idaré Medjliss, of which the Vali is President. There are several reasons for this opposition. Firstly, the Government is much opposed to Protestant instructors in this district, because they report from time to time on the misrule which has so long existed there; and secondly, the Kaïmakam of Chanous, Iskander Bey, is said to pay well for his position. Supposing this report to be true, his protectors here would be naturally anxious that no misdoings of his should be brought to light which, causing his downfall, would deprive them of considerable sums of money. Possibly, too, there is some opposition on the part of the Armenian ecclesiastics, who are members of the Idaré Medjliss. Seeing that there was an intention on the part of every one to let the matter drift into oblivion, on the 5th January I wrote a letter to the Vali, of which I append a translation. To this letter I received an answer, to the effect that the Kaïmakam of Chanous had been written to on the matter, and that, on receipt of my communication, a second letter had been addressed to him on the 15th instant. I asked the Vali what information he had requested from the Kaïmakam of Chanous. He replied that he had written to inquire the number and religion of the people of Hozlov, and, when he received an answer, he would take the matter into consideration. For this answer I have waited another fortnight. Yesterday I again demanded if any reply had yet arrived. Receiving a response in the negative, I now report the matter to you.

It is very important to the missionaries that these permissions should be granted to their native instructors. Without them there is no security either for their lives or property. It is, moreover, a privilege which has always been granted to them heretofore, and the loss of it would establish a precedent which might prove very injurious to them in the future. I therefore beg most respectfully to suggest that

some steps be taken to oblige the authorities to comply with their demands. I understand that the new instructor has proceeded to Hozlov notwithstanding, and although he has been threatened, he has not met with any actual molestation up to the present time. But without authority his position is somewhat precarious.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 68.

Captain Everett to the Governor-General of Erzeroum.

(Translation.)
Erzeroum, January 5, 1880.

Excellence,

MR. COLE, the American missionary at Erzeroum, having thought fit to place a new instructor in the village of Hozlov, in the district of Chanous, he applied to you on the 26th November, 1879, for the Buryuttu, which it has been always customary to give to the Protestant missionaries to protect them from molestation. Since then I have made repeated applications for the same, but without success.

In the Firman graciously granted by His Majesty the Sultan to his Protestant subjects, I read these words, "Thou shalt be careful that, like unto the other communities of the Empire, every facility and required assistance be afforded to them in all their affairs;" and in another place, "Thou shalt be careful to maintain them in the desired quiet and security."

The delay in not granting this permit is most inconvenient to the Protestants, and may entail molestation to the instructor, who has been obliged to go to Hozlov without it. Such delay, therefore, is directly opposed to the wishes of His Majesty the Sultan, expressed in the Firman which I quoted above. Under these circumstances, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that it will be my painful duty to report the circumstance to the proper authorities without further delay, and I have advised the head of the missionaries to bring the matter immediately to the notice of the American Minister in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 69.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 185. Confidential.)
Constantinople, February 10, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from a private letter which has been received from a gentleman in the confidence of Midhat Pasha relating the abuses which exist in the administration of the Province of Syria, and the difficulties which are placed in the way of His Highness' projects of reform.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Vassif Effendi to Mr. Nicolson.

(Privé.)
(Extrait.)
Beyrouth, le 2 Février, 1880.

QUANT aux affaires, je suis toujours obligé de vous faire un tableau des plus pitoyables, et je dois franchement vous avouer, et à mon grand regret, que non-seulement la centralisation des affaires à Constantinople, les réformes décrétées, et les ordres insensés qui nous parviennent journellement de la capitale, ont été et sont funestes pour la bonne administration; mais je crains et je prévois un éclat. De tous côtés nous recevons quotidiennement des plaintes et des protestations de la part des populations contre les agissements des soi-disant procureurs, notaires, &c., et nous ne pouvons que les référer à l'Inspecteur-Général des Tribunaux, qui ne peut aussi rien décider sans demander Constantinople. Ce qui est le plus fâcheux, c'est qu'à l'insu du Gouverneur-Général tous les cas criminels sont jugés par ces Tribunaux indépendants, qui, soit par ignorance, soit par corruption, font des fautes et des abus impardonnables, et puis si des méfaits se perpètrent le Gouverneur-Général est tenu responsable. Des innocents sont emprisonnés, des coupables et assassins sont relâchés.

Est-ce possible d'admettre de pareille responsabilité? N'est-ce pas là une controverse anormale?

Le militarisme marche aussi à souhait, le mésaccord existant entre l'autorité civile et l'autorité militaire a poussé le Pacha, pour se soustraire à toutes les vexations et mauvais procédés de la part de ces derniers, de s'éloigner de Damas. Cette désunion de deux pouvoirs ne peut que nous entraîner dans une pente fatale, et les populations en profitent pour intriguer plus à leur aise.

La diminution du 15 pour cent des appointements des employés est une des causes principales de l'augmentation de la corruption générale, qui déjà existent dans la province.

La pénurie est arrivée à son comble. L'opposition systématique de la capitale à contrecarrer toute initiation, proposition, faits et gestes de son Altesse, est arrivée à son apogée, et pour preuve de cette malveillance je vous cite en passant un exemple.

En faisant le Budget du vilayet, son Altesse, sur les frais de sa nouvelle organisation de la gendarmerie et police (seule institution marchant assez bien et sur laquelle nous recevons continuellement des félicitations de la part des populations et du Corps Consulaire), avait économisé £ T. 5,000. Lors du Décret annonçant l'indépendance des Tribunaux, le Pacha fit savoir que, sans toucher au Budget, il avait £ T. 5,000 disponibles, et qu'il était intentionné de disposer de cette somme pour l'organisation des Tribunaux, la paie les Juges, employés, et membres. Eh bien, savez-vous ce que Constantinople a fait? on s'est approprié de la somme, on a diminué 15 pour cent des salaires, et on ne paie rien aux membres. Une telle mesure fatale a été prise pour le Vilayet de Syrie, et non pour les autres provinces, et que voyons-nous aujourd'hui? Les membres et employés des Tribunaux dans les autres provinces, comme par exemple Jérusalem, sont payés, et comme de leur Budget ils n'ont pas pu comme nous économiser, le Ministère a Jugé à propos d'ajouter une somme en sus pour le paiement des salaires. Vous voyez l'injustice. Nous avons fait une économie de £ T. 5,000 pour les donner aux Tribunaux. On nous les prends, et on laisse nos membres sans paie. Vous comprendrez, cher ami, que dans des conditions pareilles on ne peut donc, sans compromettre sa personne et son nom, rester et conserver sa position de Gouverneur-Général.

Enfin, je tache de persuader et faire patienter le Pacha jusqu'au printemps, pour voir un peu plus claire la situation, et puis prendre une décision définitive.

No. 70.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 189.)
Constantinople, February 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in the Provinces of Erzeroum and Van, which I have received from Captains Everett and Chyton.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(Confidential.)
Erzeroum, January 24, 1880.

Sir,

IT has lately come to my knowledge from a reliable source of information that a certain Reschid Bey, formerly a Kurdish Chief, and, as such, head of several hundred families, but now a major of Cossacks in the Russian service, came about six months ago to reside in the Passim district, under the pretext that he was on leave.

About two months since he returned to Russia, but has again made his appearance and is now residing at the village of Tirun to the north-east of Haisan-Kaleh.

Since his return he has commenced distributing money to the poor, requiring only a receipt and taking no interest.

To the villagers of Todeveran, near Komadsor, he has given £T. 40, and amongst the inhabitants of Euzavaran, Ishif Gurdabaz, Yaghan, Badighvan, Kopri-keui, Timur, and other villages, he has distributed a sum amounting, according to my informant, to about £T. 1,000. Reschid Bey has a brother, Nene Bey, residing at Aviiik. This man does not distribute, but, acting as his brother's agent, finds out those who are in need of money, and brings them to Reschid Bey for relief. It is reported that Nene Bey does not go unrewarded for the trouble he takes in this matter, and it is worthy of note that some of the villagers, suspecting Russian intrigue, have preferred to borrow at interest rather than accept the easy terms of this suspicious stranger.

I have also received information from a Turkish officer, coming from the neighbourhood of Ardahan, that although very few troops are quartered on this part of the Turkish frontier, nevertheless very large quantities of stores and other munitions of war are being gradually collected at that place. I cannot vouch for the accuracy of this intelligence, but as my informant had no favour to beg of me, and no object in visiting me, except to acquaint me with these facts, there may possibly be some truth in them.

I have brought both these matters confidentially to the notice of the Vali, and I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

Erzeroum, January 30, 1880.

Sir,

ON the 16th January I telegraphed to you as follows:—

"Can you not persuade Ambassador to bring immediate pressure on Courts to finish Keghi and Baiburt cases; the present state of things is disgraceful."

And again yesterday:—

"Keghi cases stopped altogether through opposition of Nafyz Pasha and Tribunals. People despairing. Commissioners written to."

These telegrams require no explanation. After finding every sort of excuse for delay, the Tribunals have gradually allowed these important cases to lag, and at length have ceased working at them altogether. There is no difficulty in tracing the cause of this premeditated delay.

Nafyz Pasha, the Inspector-General of Tribunals, one of whose duties is to push on the cases which are before the Courts, is himself a connection of the Beys, and therefore contents himself with issuing feeble orders to his subordinates, which are not attended to, because it is not intended they should be. The members of the Tribunals, for reasons best known to themselves, heartily co-operate in this iniquity. If their object is to tire out the prosecutors they have nearly succeeded, for the people have lost all heart, and have spent nearly all their funds. Their faith in the will and ability of the English Government to procure them justice is the only hope left to them, and to it they cling with a tenacity which certainly does them credit, and which I should be sorry to see disappointed.

Hussein Effendi, ten days ago, wrote to the Turkish Commissioners at Van on these matters, but it will take some time before he can receive an answer. In the meantime the Tribunals have it all their own way, and, I understand, are endeavouring to show the people that, notwithstanding English interference, they can act very much as they choose.

The Beys, too, whom in a former despatch I reported to you as having returned to Keghi, are spreading the same undesirable reports throughout that district. With respect to these Beys, I understand that bail has been taken for their reappearance, if required.

I have not received any further news from the famine districts, except that the Mutessarif has raised a subscription at Bayazid for the sufferers, and has succeeded in collecting 800 piastres.

A telegram I received from his Excellency the Ambassador at Constantinople informs me that the Armenian Patriarch has collected there £T. 500 for the Christians in the districts of Van, Alashgerd, and Bayazid, and that 25*l.* has been forwarded him by the ——— of Edinburgh (the telegram is not clear on the point).

Before buying wheat, I propose to transport the 1,000 somars which the Ottoman Government has granted, from Baiburt and Chanous (see my former despatch) to the districts. By this means very considerable relief should be given to the inhabitants at a much cheaper rate than if wheat were bought. The fact, too, of the people knowing that they will have to return next year what they now borrow, will restrain them from making false statements as to their wants.

It would be well, on all grounds, if the money collected by the Armenian Patriarch were similarly employed, for unless very large sums are forthcoming the relief given at the rate of about £. T. 7 the somar will be very small. But there is this difficulty in the way, viz., that the Patriarch is collecting only for the Christians, whereas the Turkish wheat will be distributed amongst all Ottoman subjects, irrespective of religion.

If after having transported the 1,000 somars there should be money left, I then propose to buy wherever I can the cheapest wheat, taking into consideration the cost of transport.

The distribution of wheat bought with English money would not go through the hands of the Turkish authorities at all, but would be distributed by me, aided by the American missionaries, who are always willing to assist in any work of this nature.

From what I can gather speculators are already transporting wheat down into the districts on chance of selling at good prices when the money comes, and as some of these are influential Armenians, I have no doubt they will endeavour to persuade the Patriarch to send the money into the districts in order that they may be the gainers.

The distress in Erzeroum is increasing greatly. It is poverty in the midst of plenty. With very large stores of flour in the city the price of bread has risen to such a height that many poor are unable to buy. When the Government sold the wheat it was bought wholesale by speculators, all of whom are holding Government appointments. These unscrupulous men, who ought from their very position to be taking measures to allay the distress, are, in fact, the chief promoters of it, and are holding back the flour in the hope of exacting still higher prices later on.

The Kaimakam of Keghi is still here. I understand that the Government have not been able to find any fault with him, but the examinations are not yet completed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 70.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

Sir, *Van, December* 30, 1879.

WITH reference to the miserable condition of the district of Bashkala, as reported in my last despatch, the Reform Commissioners have informed me that they are strongly urging on the vilayet Government the necessity of sending a supply of grain into that district, and hope that they will be able to induce the Government to do so. The night before last, however, there occurred a very heavy fall of snow, and the roads are at present impassable for laden animals, and I fear very great suffering must ensue before any relief can reach the distressed region.

The responsibility for this distress must rest on the shoulders of the Vali and the local authorities. Early in October I spoke to the Vali about the prospect of want, and on several occasions later, and he always said that the matter was being looked into, and that a Commission was sitting to investigate and find out the localities where, and the extent to which, aid would be needed, but I now find that I was being deceived and that nothing whatever has been done.

The Commissioners also inform me that they have ordered an investigation into the alleged misconduct of Hadjji Mustapha Effendi, the President of the Criminal Court at Bashkala, and have ordered him to be removed and sent here if the accusations made against him are substantiated.

When they were at Mush on their journey from Erzeroum hither, the Commissioners received from the Armenian Bishop of Mush a list of sixty persons who are the principal robbers and oppressors in that district. They gave orders for the arrest of these malefactors, and tell me that up to the date of the last information received thirty-three have been arrested. If these men are punished and adequate measures

are taken to prevent or quickly punish crime for the future, an improvement in the condition of the country may be looked for.

The Commissioners also tell me that they are telegraphing and writing to Constantinople to request that application may be made to the Persian Government for the capture and handing over to the Turkish authorities of a certain Ali Khan, who has made raids over the frontier and devasted many villages, and also for the withdrawal of protection from and arrest of a noted Kurdish robber Chief named Derbaz, who has lately taken refuge on Persian territory, and has been appointed Governor of Kotoum by the Persian authorities. The Commissioners wish me, in making known that they have made these requests, to express also their hope that the Ambassador could support their application, as it is almost impossible to hope to put an effectual curb on the depredations of Kurdish Chiefs if notorious criminals are protected and rewarded by the Persian Government.

Information has been received here that Mush and Bitlis are to be separated from this vilayet and formed into a new vilayet with head-quarters at Bitlis, Aarif Pasha, a soldier, being appointed Vali. Whether this change will improve matters will depend upon the character of Aarif Pasha and of the Government he organizes.

The work of the Reform Commissioners is much retarded by the winter season, and the consequent difficulties of communication, and by the present want of information as to the details of the new organization of the vilayets of Van and Bitlis, but their presence will, I hope, to a certain extent benefit the unfortunate peasantry, as they are sending orders to the local authorities not to press for taxation which the people have no means of paying, and to make greater exertions for the maintenance of order and security. But all they do is against the grain of the Local Governments and of the influential Moslems, and unless an organic change in the principles of government can be instituted, matters must infallibly go back again into the old bad way on their departure.

As regards the affairs of Mar Shimoun and the Nestorians, I have received further information that it was Hassan Bey Temur Oglou, the Kaimakam of Julamerk, a man of notorious bad character, who threatened the Nestorians that he would march against them with troops and Kurds if they did not pay the money he demanded, and that Toussoun Pasha, the Mutessarif of Bashkala, when he heard of it, sent immediate orders to Hassan Bey to refrain.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 71.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 100.) *Constantinople, February 11, 1880.*
My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41, of the 8th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Major Trotter, respecting M. Boyajian's appointment as Vice-Consul at Diarbekir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 71.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

Diarbekir, January 6, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to previous correspondence on the subject of M. Boyajian's appointment as Vice-Consul at Diarbekir, I have the honour to state that, after my return to Diarbekir, I called on the Vali to make the necessary explanations concerning the non-arrival of the Vizirial letter which had been expected from Constantinople.

He was pleased to accept my explanations in good part, and professed that he was glad to recognize M. Boyajian as my deputy, whether approved of by the Porte or not.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 72.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 114.) *Foreign Office, February 19, 1880.*
Sir,

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that I have learnt with much satisfaction from your despatch No. 150 of the 3rd instant, that there is reason to hope that the Porte will appoint a Delegate for the purpose of making further inquiry, in conjunction with a Delegate to be named by your Excellency, into the complaints laid by Mr. Binns and Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral against Husni Effendi, the Defterdar of Angora.

Your Excellency's proposal, that Colonel Wilson, Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia, should act as the British Delegate in this inquiry, meets with my entire approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 73.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 1. Political.) *Diarbekir, January 7, 1880.*
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in compliance with instructions received from Her Majesty's Ambassador, I left Erzeroum for Diarbekir on the 10th November last, and that I arrived at that place on the 27th December.

The direct route, viâ Tchabaghtchoor, by which I had travelled on previous occasions was already closed by snow before I left Erzeroum, so I decided to proceed to Diarbekir viâ Erzinjan, Egin, Arabkir, and Kharput, large towns lying in a part of my Consular district which I had never before visited. I had long been anxious to visit these places, as they lie in what is generally considered to be one of the most prosperous districts of Asia Minor, and I was anxious, if possible, to see the bright side of the very dark picture which only has hitherto been exposed to my view.

On the whole, I was not disappointed, and the country through which I passed is, taking it all in all, certainly the least ill-governed and the most prosperous section of my Consular jurisdiction.

Throughout my journey, besides my own party, I never required or had to ask for a larger escort than two zaptiehs, one of whom accompanied me while the other went with the baggage. This indicates that the country, for the time being at all events, is tolerably free from highway robbers.

A reference to the map will show that the route followed makes a great circuit outside of the country lying between the eastern and western branches of the Euphrates (respectively the Moorad and Kara Su Rivers). The greater part of this country constitutes what is generally known as the Deyrsim, a country to which I have frequently alluded in former Reports as being in a chronic state of insurrection and semi-independence.

For many years past the route along which I travelled between Erzinjan and Arabkir has in many parts been infected by the mountain robbers of the Deyrsim, who, during the summer months, issue, generally in small parties, from their mountain fastnesses, cross the river, and levy tribute on all the neighbouring villages, besides rendering the highways unsafe. In winter, the mountain paths by which they travel are closed by snow, and this is therefore considered by the surrounding villagers as their safe season. When I passed through, the country was not only protected by the snow in the mountains, but it had during the previous summer enjoyed an unusual degree of security from the inroads of the Dersimlis, the worst disposed of whom were engaged in garrisoning their mountain homes against the Mushir, Dervish Pasha, and the 26 battalions of soldiers at his disposal.

I hope, in a subsequent despatch, to make a special Report upon Deyrsim and its inhabitants, and the military operations that have been carried on there.

At each of the large towns passed *en route* I made a stay of some days, in order that I might become acquainted with the officials and the principal inhabitants, and obtain as much information as possible as to the general state of the country. I may here state that I have everywhere met with an excellent reception on the part of the authorities, and have been treated with the greatest hospitality by all classes of the population, but

especially by the Armenians, who looked upon my coming as a most important event, and doubtless hoped that it would ultimately be productive of good to themselves.

My first lengthened stay (ten days) was at Erzinjan, the head-quarters of the 4th Army Corps. I have, in a previous despatch, described the public dinner there given to me by the Armenian community. This was followed, on the eve of my departure, by a grand banquet given in my honour by the Military Pasha commanding the 4th Army Corps, during the absence of the Mushir, Samik Pasha, at Van. Covers were laid for thirty-six, and the guests included—all of the principal officials, civil and military—as well as the principal local notabilities, both Christian and Moslem. Two military bands were in attendance, and the Serai was illuminated. Her Majesty's health was proposed by the Reis Pasha; I followed with that of the Sultan. Numerous other toasts and speeches followed, and the meeting was altogether very successful, and I hope, profitable, for anything that is done in this country to bring together in a social and friendly way members of the two generally antagonistic creeds, cannot but be beneficial to both.

I have made a prominent point in all the numerous short speeches I have had occasion to make during my recent tour, of inculcating the extreme desirability of friendly relations between Christians and Moslems.

I stayed four days at Egin, a large town of more than 2,000 houses, extremely picturesquely situated on the right bank of the Euphrates. The inhabitants, the majority of whom are Armenians, were formerly wealthy, but they have during recent years lost very heavily, in some cases nearly all their fortunes. A great number of the Eginlis have followed the profession of banking in Constantinople and elsewhere, and as their own country contains little else but water and barren rocks, they naturally invested the gains of their profession in Government securities and railway stock. I was told by some of the best informed Egiulis, that by the depreciation of Government paper (Consolidés), caimé and railway stock, the town of Egin had lost property to the value of £ T. 2,000,000. Accepting even half only of their estimate as the true loss, there can be no doubt that the Eginlis have suffered pecuniarily to an enormous extent from the bad faith of the Government, and many families have been reduced from affluence to penury.

Two short days' journey from Egin is Arabkir, another large town of 3,500 houses. The majority of the population is Christian (Armenian). It is a flourishing and thriving place, and just as the Eginlis are famous as bankers throughout Turkey, so are the Arabkirlis renowned as merchants. In nearly every town that I know some of the most prosperous merchants hail from Arabkir. The recent depression of trade has told very hardly on them, and very heavy losses have recently been sustained by many of the leading people, who have also lost—but not to the same extent as the Eginlis—on Turkish Government stock, and by the depreciation of caimé.

In both those towns the Armenian population is superior both in number and in wealth to the Moslems, in consequence they enjoy a higher social position than in other towns, and as a rule appear, outwardly, at all events, to be on fairly good terms with their Mahommedan neighbours. At both towns I received visits from the leading Mahommedans as well as the leading Christians.

I received, however, at both places, as well as at Erzinjan, long and carefully prepared written statements from the Armenian communities, showing their grievances and the remedies they propose should be applied. I shall have the honour of addressing your Lordship on the subject at length in a separate despatch. I will merely here state that there can be no doubt that corruption in every form is as rampant in these districts as in other provinces less favoured in a general point of view. In fact, as a leading Christian explains to me, "We prefer a corrupt Governor to an incorruptible one: the latter is sure to be a fanatic, and to favour the Mussulmans in all cases, whereas with the former we can often buy justice." This does not disclose a very healthy state of morals, but I fear the picture is a true one.

The principal and best founded complaints that were brought to my notice along this part of my route were:—

1. The universal corruption of officials of all kinds.
2. General insecurity of the country from inroads by the Deyrsimli robbers (as before explained this has not been seriously felt during the last year).
3. The almost entire monopoly of official administrative appointments by Moslems and the consequent relative social inferiority of the Christian element.
4. Everywhere along the main lines of road complaints loud and long reached me of the heavy and serious losses incurred by the villagers at having so often to entertain gratuitously officials and parties of soldiers and zaptiehs. If they refuse to give supplies

they are beaten and otherwise maltreated, and rarely or never are they paid for what they provide. I am not now referring to large bodies of soldiers marching under the orders of superior officers. These go through the form of giving receipts for food supplied, the value of which the villagers are generally unable to recover. Small parties of men do not even go through this form, but take what they require without even giving a bit of paper in exchange.

Egin and Arabkir are Kazas of the Kharput Eyalet.

From Arabkir I went to Keban-Maaden which was once the seat of a Pashalic, and forty years ago is said to have been a most flourishing town of 3,000 houses. It now barely contains one-tenth of the number, but is still the residence of a Kaimakam. It owed its former prosperity to its vicinity to the famous lead mines which have been worked for the last 325 years. These mines were once a source of considerable revenue to the Porte, but for the last twenty-five years through robbery and mismanagement (I was assured on the spot) the profits have been gradually dwindling down. During the last two years they have been worked at a loss, and while I was there orders were received from Constantinople for the works to be closes, and the whole of the employés to be discharged.

I was most positively assured by local officials and others that there still exists an abundance of lead and silver, and that it only requires good management, and a liberal employment of capital to make the working of these mines even now, an extremely remunerative undertaking. One great and constantly unceasing obstacle to the successful working of the mine has been the difficulty of obtaining fuel; but there exists within reasonable distance unworked mines of coal.

From Keban-Maaden I went to Kharput, a large city of 3,000 houses, and the residence of an independent Mutessarif who takes his orders direct from Constantinople. Kharput or Memuret-ul-Aziz, as it is now officially called, is one of the four provinces within my Consular jurisdiction (Erzeroum, Diarbekir, and Van being the others). I now visited it, and placed myself *en rapport* with the authorities there, for the first time.

My reception was all that could be desired. A detachment of cavalry was sent out a considerable distance to meet me, and escort me into the town; the principal members of the Government were sent out by the Governor to welcome me, while the American missionaries and many of the principal inhabitants came out for the same purpose.

I remained at Kharput for a week, barely enough time to make acquaintance with the authorities, and obtain a certain amount of information about the state of the country. A report on this subject I reserve for a subsequent despatch.

The Acting Governor of Kharput, Rouni Effendi, an enlightened and energetic man, bears an excellent reputation both at Kharput and at Arghana Maaden, where he has been Mutessarif for a good many years past.

I also made the acquaintance at Kharput of the Ferik Feizli Pasha who, since the departure of Dervisch Pasha for Constantinople, has been entrusted with the pacification of the Dyrsim regions, a task which he appears to have executed with judgment and success. He is almost universally well spoken of by all classes of people.

I had also several interviews at Kharput with Manas Effendi, the Second Imperial Commissioner of Reforms for the Vilayet of Diarbekir and Kharput. It appears that after the departure of the First Commissioner, Abeddin Pasha, to take up his new appointment as Governor of Sivas, Manas Effendi was thwarted in every possible way by the late Mutessarif, and the work of the Commission came to an entire deadlock pending replies to references to Constantinople.

Finally the Porte, instead of supporting the Commissioner, or indeed of even replying to his complaints, promoted the reactionary Mutessarif to be Vali of Mosul, to assume the Government of which place he had left shortly before my arrival at Kharput.

During my visit there Manas Effendi received a telegram recalling him to Constantinople.

From Kharput, where I was the guest of the American Missionaries, I proceeded direct to Diarbekir, spending a day *en route* at Arganch Maaden. I visited the famous copper mines, where they now lie in store, the property of the Turkish Government, some four million okes of roughly refined copper, worth some 4 or 5 piastres the oke, which—for some mysterious reason—the Government has not yet converted into cash.

I reached Diarbekir on the 27th December, seven weeks after leaving Erzeroum; on the following day was a tremendous snow-storm, followed later on by others, which have left the whole of the surrounding country under deep snow, and has for a time put a stop to all communications. Several parties of travellers are reported to have perished in these storms.

I am happy to state that throughout the strip of country visited by me there appears

to be no danger of approaching famine. The harvest at Kharput has been a fairly good one, and although at Erzinjan, Arabkir, &c., there had been a deficient crop, this has been made good by importations from Sivas; and although prices are high, and there will perhaps be some distress, I do not anticipate famine in that portion of the country.

In the immediate vicinity of Diarbekir, however, and in the country to the south and east, I fear there will be much distress and actual famine. Last year's harvest was in many places a total failure; the people are extremely poor, the winter is unusually severe, and sheep and cattle are dying in enormous numbers from the combined effect of hunger and cold.

I shall have the honour of addressing your Lordship in separate despatches on various matters of interest that have come under my notice during my recent journey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 74.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 2. Political.) *Aleppo, January 30, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch I have addressed to Sir Henry Layard with reference to the letters published in the "Times" regarding the state of this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 74.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 4.) *Aleppo, January 30, 1880.*

Sir,

MY attention has been called to several articles published in the "Times" dated from Aintab, in this vilayet.

These articles are the unilateral and inaccurate productions of an American missionary named Trowbridge, and the editor of the "Times" has taken the unusual course of refusing to publish the disclaimer of respectable and well-informed people regarding misstatements contained in them.

Said Pasha also wrote, through his Aide-de-camp, Colonel Bession, to the editor, but his letter also was refused publication.

Several of the articles have been republished by the local press, and as they are calculated to mislead people here, I have requested the Local Government to give publicity to the fact that though the letters are published in an English newspaper, they are the effusions of Mr. Trowbridge, an American missionary at Aintab, who alone is responsible for the misstatements contained in them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 75.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 79.) *St. Petersburgh, February 16, 1880.*

My Lord,

ACCORDING to the "Kavkas" newspaper, the number of emigrants from the region of Kars, since its occupation by the Russians, up to the 13th October, 1879, is reckoned to have been 41,691.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 76.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 1. Political.)

My Lord, *Damascus, February 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting the abolition of the public farming of tithes in Syria, and the future levy of them by the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Damascus, February 6, 1880*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that orders have been received from the Porte to abolish the public farming of the tithes in the Vilayet of Syria, and to levy them on Government account.

This measure will, if persisted in, lead to a most serious loss to the public Treasury, variously calculated at between 10 and 50 per cent. on the principal source of revenue of the province, on account of the impossibility of finding functionaries capable and honest enough, even if regularly and adequately paid, to check fraud and to resist offers of collusion on the part of the peasantry, or to place to the credit of the Government the rightful quantity accruing.

Prior to the advent of Midhat Pasha, the sum properly realizable by the Treasury by the sale of tithes was sensibly diminished by collusion between the chief official adjudicators and speculators.

His Highness abolished this system by allowing open competition, and permitting villages, when so inclined, to farm their own tithes as by law ordained, thus obtaining an increase during 1879 of some £ T. 60,000, in spite, too, of the failure of the harvests of some of the most important of the grain-growing districts.

Even if the local public service were capable of being placed on the best footing as regards efficiency and honesty, it may be doubted whether financial results would warrant the change, taking into account the expenses of the numerous employés who would be called into existence, and the substitution of the Government for the energy and commercial aptitude of private speculators for the best means of selling an enormous amount of grain, &c., to say nothing of the high prices offered prospectively for the purchase of tithes under the present system by the spirit of competitive speculation.

The results, in those cases where the authorities have hitherto in certain districts farmed the tithes, prove that the estimated loss of 40 or 50 per cent. is not much overrated.

The relief to the peasantry will, I am afraid, be principally found in the greater ease with which it can withhold its proper due, as the powers of oppression of the tithe farmer have been so far circumscribed by the assistance he could manage to evoke from interested local officials.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 77.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 132.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February 25, 1880.*

I HAVE to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the representation made by you to the Porte, as reported in your despatch No. 181 of the 10th instant, relative to the "Buyuldi," or protection for the new Protestant Instructor at Hezlee, the issue of which, Captain Everett reports, has hitherto been withheld by the authorities of the District of Chanous.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 78.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 135.)

Foreign Office, February 25, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received Captain Clayton's despatch No. 11 of the 29th of last December, forwarded with your Excellency's despatch No. 181 of the 9th instant.

In reply I have to state to your Excellency that I concur with you in thinking that, in view of the denial given by the Ferik Pasha with regard to the objectionable remarks attributed to him on a public occasion, it is not desirable that the demand for a public apology should be pressed further.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 79.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 136.)

Foreign Office, February 25, 1880.

Sir,

YOUR action, reported in your despatch No. 179 of the 9th instant, in communicating to the Porte the information furnished by Colonel Wilson with regard to the settlement of refugees in the vilayet of Sivas, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No 80.

The Rev. T. C. Trowbridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 26.)

Aintab, Central Turkey, February 5, 1880.

My Lord,

I BEG to inclose to your Lordship copies of letters that have passed between myself and Her Britannic Majesty's Consul, P. Henderson, Esq., of Aleppo.

I should not trouble your Lordship with this subject had not Mr. Henderson intimated, in his note, that he has officially called in question the accuracy of certain statements that I have made in a series of letters to the "Times."

As Mr. Henderson's despatch will probably be issued to the public in the usual form, it seems proper that I should state to your Lordship the sources of my information.

I have myself resided in Turkey since 1855, in constant and familiar intercourse with the people. Mr. Henderson has been in this part of Turkey about a year and a-half.

The statements that I have made are simple statements of facts. I do not understand precisely on what ground Mr. Henderson has undertaken to call me to account.

If Mr. Henderson's despatch is published, I trust your Lordship will see the propriety of inserting my statement of the case in connection with his despatch.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) T. C. TROWBRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 80.

Consul Henderson to the Rev. T. C. Trowbridge.

Aleppo, January 22, 1880.

Dear Sir,

I HAVE received your letter of the 31st December, with inclosure.

In this instance I have spoken to the Governor-General about the matter of which the inclosure treats, and he has promised to consider it. I must, however, request you in the future to address yourself to your American colleague and not to me, as it is impossible for me to in any way identify myself with any one writes such letters to the newspapers as you do.

You request me to inform you if I know of anything to justify, in Sir H. Layard, the belief that there is a most hopeful prospect in respect of reforms in Asia Minor, as you have felt compelled to speak despondingly of such hopes in your letters to the "Times."

You must obtain your information from some one else, as the unilateral and indiscreet effusions in the "Times" are but ill-calculated to be productive of good.

Several of them have been submitted to me, and I have been obliged to state that they are most indiscreet and inaccurate productions.

With regard to the men who are alleged to have assaulted an Armenian family, I must refer you in this matter to M. Poché also.

I am, &c.

(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 80.

The Rev T. C. Trowbridge to Consul Henderson.

Aintab, February 2, 1880.

Sir,

YOUR note of the 22nd January reached me by the last post.

I need hardly say that I regret that my letters to the "Times" do not meet your approval. As to whether those letters are "calculated to be productive of good" or not is a matter of opinion; it is quite possible also that they may be "indiscreet." Were this all your note contained I should not trouble you with a reply. You say, however, that you have officially declared my letters "inaccurate."

The statements of fact which I have made in those letters have been drawn from two sources: (1) from my own personal observation; (2) from letters from the following gentlemen: Rev. H. N. Barnum, D.D., Kharput; Rev. Tomas Boyajian, Diarbekir; Rev. H. T. Perry, Sivas; Rev. W. A. Farnsworth, D.D., Cesarea; Rev. T. D. Christie, Adana; Rev. H. Marden, Marash; Rev. H. H. Jessup, D.D., Beirout; and Rev. J. F. Pettibone, Constantinople. Most of these gentlemen have resided in Turkey for the past twenty years; some of them for a longer time. They are not men who are accustomed to make "inaccurate" statements. Moreover, it is hard to see how it is possible for you, who have lately come to Aleppo, to be possessed of such information as to enable you to set aside the testimony of these gentlemen as inaccurate.

As to the facts that have come under my own observation, the simple question is whether I have told the truth or not. I do not propose to make a plea in my own defence; if you think I have misrepresented the facts, a mere general assertion to that effect is not enough; that is the method to which many officers of the Turkish Government resort. The better way would be to give specifications and support your assertions by proof. I am sure the "Times" will publish what you may send them as a correction of my statements. All I can ask is the opportunity to reply, and give the grounds on which those statements were made. We will then leave the public to judge between us.

That your general charge of inaccuracy in this case cannot be sustained I feel quite confident, for the facts which I have stated on my own authority have come under my personal observation, whereas it has been impossible, I think, that your information in regard to them could be otherwise than of a hearsay character.

Perhaps you will say that I had no personal knowledge of the settlement of the troubles at Zeitoun. True; but in that case I gave my authorities: yourself, Lieutenant Chermside, the missionaries at Marash, and, above all, Said Pasha himself.

You characterize my letters as "unilateral." I reply, if they are so, it is because the facts are so. Moreover, my representation of the state of Asia Minor is confirmed by other correspondents of the "Times," and by the official Reports of the Consul-General, Colonel Wilson, Major Trotter, Colonel Clayton, Captain Cooper, and others. Would you say of these Reports that they are "effusions," "indiscreet and inaccurate productions?" Anticipating that my statements would be called in question by members of the English Consular service in Turkey, I have taken pains to possess myself of reliable evidence before writing.

I will only add that the style of your letter seems hardly in keeping with your official character and position; that, however, is a point of small importance, as style is a matter of taste. It is to be regretted that so many members of the English Consular service assume this style when they reply to the criticisms others venture to make on the character and conduct of the Turkish Government.

Thanking you for speaking to the Pasha in regard to the misconduct of the Kaïmakam of Birijik, I remain, &c.

(Signed) T. C. TROWBRIDGE,

American Missionary and United States' Vice-Consul at Aintab, Northern Syria.

No. 81.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 26.)

(No. 211. Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 17, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Gregorian Armenian Patriarch, Mgr. Narses, is constantly complaining to me of the ill-treatment and injustice to which the Armenians in Asia Minor are exposed, and appealing to me to obtain for them a reformed Administration and redress. Similar complaints are being made by him to the German Embassy, and, no doubt, to other Embassies. As I was desirous of sending Sir A. Sandison to his Beatitude to obtain fuller information on the subject of the demands of the Armenian population, and to learn more precisely his views as to the measures to be taken for its improvement, which I could urge upon the Porte with some prospect of success, I thought the opportunity a good one of carrying out your Lordship's instruction, contained in your despatch No. 79, Secret and Most Confidential, of the 2nd instant, to show myself as acting with the German Chargé d'Affaires in the Armenian question. On my proposal, Count Radolinski at once agreed that M. Testa, the first interpreter to the German Embassy, should accompany Sir A. Sandison in his visit to Mgr. Narses. I have the honour to inclose a memorandum from Sir Alfred of the result of their interview with his Beatitude, which your Lordship will read with interest.

I have already expressed my opinion to your Lordship that the Porte could not be called upon to pledge itself that an Armenian should always be appointed Governor of the Province of Erzeroum. This would be the first step to the assertion of a claim to autonomy to which the Turkish Government would not agree. Nor, it appears to me, have the Armenians any right to insist upon this condition. A demand that the appointment should be open to Christians as well as Mussulmans is another thing, and would be justifiable. It has already been conceded in principle by the recent nomination of Rustem Pasha, who was unfortunately compelled to decline the post on account of the state of his health.

It is not likely that the Porte would listen to any suggestion for the creation of an Armenian autonomous province, nor is it, I am convinced, to the real interest of the Armenians that they should put forward such a pretension. They appear to forget when they point to Eastern Roumelia as a precedent to justify their demand, that in that province the Christians were in a very considerable majority when compared with the Mussulman population. The contrary is the case in almost every part of Asiatic Turkey. Any attempt of the Armenians to obtain autonomy, which, of course, in the sense they place upon the term, means exclusive Christian rule and administration, would be resisted to the utmost by the Mahommedans, who are well acquainted with the fate which has befallen their co-religionists in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. The consequence would, most probably, be a bloody struggle, if not a general massacre of the Armenians, which could only be stopped by an armed intervention on the part of Russia, ending, in all likelihood, in the absorption of the Armenians into her dominions, and the loss of their nationality, as she is even less disposed to encourage Armenian autonomy and ultimate independence than Turkey.

Some of the reforms demanded by the Patriarch are practicable, just, and reasonable, and such as might, with much advantage, be pressed upon the Porte by Her Majesty's Government in conjunction with that of Germany.

A joint action on the part of the two countries might lead to good results.

The present state of the Armenian population in the Asiatic provinces, and especially in those inhabited by the Kurds, appears, according to the reports received from Her Majesty's Consular officers, to be deplorable, and no effective or honest measures are being taken by the Porte to improve it, or to afford redress in the innumerable cases of complaint addressed to it.

I have been constantly representing to Savas Pasha the condition of the Armenians, the importance of attending to their just and well-founded remonstrances, and the absolute necessity of taking into immediate consideration their demands for a more equitable and impartial government, in which they could have their proper share. My representations are usually met by an absolute denial of the statements as to their sufferings and as to the oppression to which they are exposed, which are attributed to British Consuls who are deceived by false reports, or by the assertion that Mgr. Narses, Nar Bey, and other Armenian ecclesiastics and notables are endeavouring to bring about an insurrection against the Sultan, and that their movements require to be carefully

watched. To raise, at the present time, the question of Armenian autonomy would only have the effect of increasing the suspicions of the Porte, and would, in my opinion, rather impede than assist any attempt that might be made by England and Germany to bring about the introduction of real and effective measures for the protection of the Armenians, and to obtain for them a fair share in the administration of the provinces they inhabit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 81.

Memorandum.

IN pursuance of your Excellency's instructions I waited, with my German colleague, M. Testa, on the Armenian Patriarch on Tuesday last, with the object of ascertaining the views of his Beatitude as to the practicable means of improving the general condition of the Armenians in Asia.

In the course of a long conversation which took place on the subject, his Beatitude having urged various inadmissible proposals, such as the nomination of an English or German Governor-General, the appointment of an International European Commission, the application to the Asiatic provinces of the Organic Statutes of Eastern Roumelia, &c., gradually gave us to understand that the appointment of an honest and able Governor-General, invested with extensive powers, for a fixed term of no less than five years, was calculated to remove the existing evils and conciliate the Armenians, failing which they would probably be forced to take up arms, and seek, moreover, the protection of Russia.

His Beatitude having at first expatiated on the faults and corruption which characterize the Turkish Government in general, ended by doing full justice to the spirit of impartiality and governing abilities displayed by Abeddin Pasha whilst on a mission in Asia as the Porte's High Commissioner. After what he had just said on the subject of Turkish Governors, this exception, I observed, might then offer some justification for supposing that it was not so utterly hopeless as he had seemed to say of frequently finding proper Governors amongst the Ottoman officials. Without disputing the fact any longer, his Beatitude then brought his arguments to bear upon the necessity of having no other but Armenian Governors. Knowing, however, the notions which prevail amongst the leading Armenians at Constantinople, none of whom are known to have ever shown the slightest disposition to serve the cause or interests of their community on difficult occasions, M. Testa very properly put the question to his Beatitude as to whether he considered any of them as likely to come forward, and offer their services for the post of Governor-General in Asia. His Beatitude replied that he knew of more than one who, under proper guarantees as to long tenure of office (five years), &c., would willingly do so, such men, for instance, as Nubar Pasha, Odian Effendi, Stepan Pasha, and Constant Pasha. For reasons which are better known to your Excellency, I thought proper to remark that it was perhaps better policy to advocate the establishment of a principle, that is to say, a principle which admitted the eligibility of Turks as well as of Christians of all denominations, than to claim the special privilege of asking for the appointment of Armenian Governors only.

This did not seem to fall in with the views of the Patriarch, who, after going into a long discussion of the sufferings of his co-religionists, went on to insinuate that nothing short of autonomy was calculated to insure the well-being and future security of the Armenians.

We thought we could not well listen to what was said on so important a subject without giving his Beatitude distinctly to understand that the European Powers, and at any rate the British and German Governments, could in no way encourage these aspirations, and that a cruel disappointment would be in store for him and his co-religionists if they at all reckoned upon the realization of such a dream.

M. Testa added that Germany had no direct interests in Turkey; that in a pure spirit of justice and humanity she only wished to see the Sultan's Christian subjects properly governed, but that it seemed difficult to reconcile what was desirable in an Armenian point of view with what was possible or practicable in a Turkish, and even European, point of view. It was therefore useless to think of plans like autonomy for the happiness and better administration of the Armenian populations in Asia, which could neither be acceptable to the Porte nor supported by the Powers which took an interest

in their well-being and prosperity. The Patriarch replied that he would willingly be guided by the advice of the two friendly Powers (England and Germany), and has since sent us the following memorandum expressive of his views and wishes in regard to the improvements of the condition of the Armenians, upon which I venture to offer a few remarks :—

"Un Vali Arménien sera nommé pour cinq ans à Erzéroum qui comprendra le Gouvernement de Van. Ce Vali sera Nubar Pacha ; en cas d'impossibilité absolue, on propose Stepan Pacha, Nourian Effendi, ou Constant Pacha.

"Le Vali aura le droit de choisir et de soumettre à l'approbation du Gouvernement Impérial les hauts fonctionnaires du vilayet.

"Le Commandant militaire sera indépendant du Vali, mais dans les questions qui intéressent la police et la sécurité intérieure, il agira conformément à la direction donnée par le Vali.

"Une gendarmerie sera instituée et placée sous les ordres du Vali. Cette gendarmerie sera dirigée par un Commandant Européen. Il y aura indistinctement des officiers Musulmans et Chrétiens.

"Une somme sera affectée sur les revenus du vilayet au service des travaux publics et de l'instruction publique. Ces deux branches dépendront entièrement du Vali sous le contrôle d'une Assemblée Générale du vilayet en tant que les dépenses ne dépasseraient pas la somme fixée.

"La langue Arménienne sera concurremment employée avec le Turc dans tous les actes officiels et devant les Tribunaux.

"La justice sera sécularisée au moins pour ce qui concerne les Chrétiens.

"Aucun Chrétien sous aucun prétexte ne pourra être jugé par les Tribunaux du Chéri. Aucune personne revêtue d'un caractère religieux ne pourra faire partie des Tribunaux, qui jugerait d'après une loi qui devra être élaborée conformément aux principes modernes de la justice.

"Le Medgelée, qui n'est qu'une compilation des lois du Chéri, cessera d'être appliqué par les Tribunaux."

With regard to the first point, it is almost unnecessary to observe that the Vilayet of Erzéroum, being already too large to govern, needs no further extension, which, under the peculiar circumstances of the country, will rather prove a drawback than an advantage in regard to the proper administration of the population. There is another important consideration to mention, namely, that the extension referred to is evidently proposed in view of carrying out eventually the cherished project of autonomy.

The second point cannot fail to give rise to difficulties with the Porte, which, without objecting to the principle of appointing Christian Governors, will not grant the Armenians the special privilege of requiring the nomination of a Governor of their own creed and race to the exclusion of all others.

The demand that the Governor-General should have the power of appointing the principal functionaries is, indeed, a very just one.

The demand that the gendarmerie should be under the command of a European officer is equally a fair one, and there will, perhaps, be little difficulty in getting the Porte to consent to the appointment of a Belgian, Italian, or German officer.

The demand that the Armenian language should be concurrently used with Turkish ought to meet with no serious objection, inasmuch as the Porte is said to have already authorized it in the Règlement (not yet come into operation) intended for the administration of all the Turkish provinces as provided by the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

The demand as to the secularization of justice, by which is meant the exclusion of the Hakims and Bishops from the local Medjlisses and Tribunals, is likely to prove for many reasons highly prejudicial to the interests of the Christian populations, which generally find a powerful protector in the Bishops who have a seat in the local Administrative Councils. It remains to be seen, moreover, how far the Porte could consent to it at this moment without offending existing religious prejudices and without taking into account various other considerations. The Medgelé, also, should be excluded from the Tribunals, but it would seem impossible for the Porte to procure a new code of laws specially intended for the provinces inhabited by the Armenians.

I would beg to add, in conclusion, that, on taking leave of the Armenian Patriarch, I particularly recommended to his attention the Règlement elaborated by the Porte, under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, as being advantageously applicable, in many respects, to the provinces in question. His Beatitude seemed, however, to attach no importance to the recommendation, which might have been either from special motives or from an insufficient knowledge of the provisions of the Règlement in question.

Pera, February 13, 1880.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 82.

Mr. Jones to the Earl of Beaconsfield.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, February* 26.)

Turkish Missions' Aid Society, 8, Adam Street, Strand,
London, February 19, 1880.

My Lord,

AS your Lordship no doubt desires full information from every reliable source as to the progress or otherwise of the guaranteed reforms in Turkey, and of the religious liberty which your Lordship was the honoured means of securing by the Berlin Treaty for all the subjects of the Porte, I feel it my duty to send you a copy of a letter received to-day at this office from an esteemed American missionary at Marash, Asia Minor. I need hardly say that the friends of this Society, of which the Earl of Shaftesbury is the President, unite with their missionary brethren at Marash in the earnest hope that effectual measures, such as the urgency of the case demands, may be taken to secure protection to the poor persecuted man, whose sufferings solely for conscience sake, and imminent present peril from Moslem fanaticism (which the local authorities are either unable or unwilling to suppress), surely call for prompt interposition.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY JONES,
Secretary of the above Society.

Inclosure in No. 82.

The Rev. H. Marden to Mr. Jones.

Dear Sir,

Marash, Turkey, January 29, 1880.

MUSTAPHA, the only convert from Mahommedism in Central Turkey, has returned to Marash, his native city, from which he was exiled six years ago. The treatment he has received in consequence of his Christian faith, "whatever Turkish law may be," will give light upon the extent of religious liberty practically allowed to Moslems. Mustapha was a quiet industrious man, living in comfortable circumstances, a tanner by trade. Some years ago he became so impressed by the reformation he saw in the life of an Armenian convert to the Evangelical faith, that he was led to examine, and eventually to accept, the same faith himself; but soon after, in fear of the fanatical Moslems, he fled to Constantinople, and hid himself in the multitudes of that great city. He was at length baptized by one of the American missionaries, and subsequently, concealing his faith, ventured back to Marash.

It was several years before he durst identify himself with Christianity, but at last he resolved to declare himself a Christian, and abide the result. He attended church but two Sabbaths when he was arrested and brought before the Governor. "What is your religion?" asked the Governor. "I am a Christian," is the reply. The Governor storms out "Whist! take him to prison." An hour later Mustapha's son, a frail boy of sixteen who shared his father's faith, was thrust into the same prison. At midnight a party of policemen entered the prison, bound the hands of each behind his back, tied them to each other with a rope, then with a rope round the father's neck, led them forth, and mounting their horses, hurried down through the dark and silent streets in the direction of Aleppo.

They are allowed to send no message home, receive no word of cheer from their friends, nor can they obtain any information of the fate that awaits them. The policemen, trusting to their rifles to prevent the escape of their prisoners, remove the rope from Mustapha's neck after the first day, but at night he and his son sleep with the clanking chains upon their limbs. They follow on as best they can 130 miles on foot to Aleppo, the capital of the province, where Government officers repeatedly offer them their liberty on condition that they abandon their Christian faith.

They are footsore, hungry, exhausted; had been spit upon, insulted, and threatened with death, and there was a fearful uncertainty respecting their immediate future,

while they seemed beyond the reach of any human help; yet they wavered not for a moment.

Their Christian faith was dearer than liberty or life. Two weeks afterwards they were sent with a strong escort of policemen to Alexandretta, and thence by steamer to Constantinople. Their Christian friends at Marash, meanwhile, were doing all in their power to secure the intercession of the Representatives of Christian Governments in their behalf, and the report of their persecution was spread far and wide in Christian lands. By means of this outside pressure on the authorities at Constantinople, these men were so far rescued from their impending fate that they were only banished to Smyrna, and a year later, by another application of the same pressure, they were released from Smyrna, but an order for their return to their home could not be obtained. The son, at last worried into silence, has secured employment at the capital, but the father stands firm as a Christian.

Now for six years he has wandered about from place to place homeless, friendless, and destitute. No Moslem would have any friendly relations with him whatever, and generally the Christians even were afraid to employ him or transact business with him, lest they incur the enmity of their Moslem neighbours. His time has been wasted, his property spent, and from a successful business man he has at times been reduced almost or quite to begging.

A few weeks ago, when the Imperial Reform Commission came here to adjust the Zeitoun difficulties, we presented the case of Mustapha to Said Pasha, the Chairman of the Commission, who is our Governor-General of this province, residing at Aleppo. The Pasha consented at once to Mustapha's return, and told us to invite him back, and promised to order the Marash Governor to give him full protection as a Christian. We invited Mustapha at once, and gave him a temporary home in our own house, and notified the Marash Governor of his arrival, and asked for his protection; but the Governor, though he has the whole police force of the city and a regiment of soldiers at his command, declined to do anything whatever for Mustapha's protection, and gave, as one reason, that he would thereby endanger his own life, and he advised us to send him away at once.

This, of course we could not do; but we immediately appealed to the Turkish Governor-General and the English Consul at Aleppo. Three weeks have passed and no reply is received. Meanwhile, Mr. Montgomery and myself are left alone to stand between Mustapha and the fanatical mob on the one hand, and the Government on the other, and to guard as best we can against any secret foes. Mustapha remains a guest at our house; we take him with us regularly across the city to church, and escort him now and then through the principal streets and public markets, but dare not leave him alone for a moment, lest he should be hustled into some dark alley, and never be heard of again, or be summoned to the Palace on some pretext or other, and be hurried off into exile before we can get any trace of him. We shall be slow to surrender him, if it can be prevented by any legitimate means.

The Americans here sympathize fully with the English in their efforts to reform the Turk, but it is needless to say that the work of reform is hardly begun when a loyal citizen pleads in vain for protection from his Government, and flees at last to the shelter of an American hut, lest he be torn in pieces by a Moslem mob, or be led into exile a second time with a rope round his neck, and his only offence—that he is a Christian.

No. 83.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 195.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 12, 1880.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1499 of the 18th December last, instructing me not to lose sight of the case of the man Ibram, whose wife and two daughters had been kidnapped by Circassians in the Province of Castamboul, I have the honour to state that I have again made representations to the Porte on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 84.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 208.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, respecting the result of the recent elections for the local Council and Tribunals, I have brought Mr. Henderson's statements to the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 84.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Aleppo, January* 30, 1880.

THE elections for the local Councils and Tribunals have just taken place, and they have excited very considerable interest throughout the vilayet. My French colleague had been long intriguing with the Catholic clergy in order to procure the election of his own nominees by the different cazas, and the result has proved that the Catholic clergy, by their superior organization, have succeeded in carrying the elections, even in cazas where the Catholic element is very small. A veto, however, to such elections rests with the Vali, and Said Pasha has used this power with discretion. In the Bidayet Hokook, Istenaff Hokook, and in the Bidayet Jezza, the Christian members are all Catholics, but in the Istenaff Jezza, the Christian element is composed of a Gregorian, Armenian, and a Maronite.

The President and Mussulman members of those Courts are all well known to me, and I abstained from advising the Vali to exercise his power of veto.

In the elections for the Medjliss Idaré, or Administrative Council, I have, however, felt called upon to interfere. During the last two months extraordinary efforts have been made by my French colleague and the priests to procure the election of Sickevass Effendi, the representative in Aleppo of the Catholic Armenian Patriarchate at Constantinople. He is a man of known bad character, and it was he whom I denounced to your Excellency in my despatch of the 24th March last, as the accomplice of Kiamil Pasha in forging letters about myself. The intrigues of the priests placed him at the head of the poll, but I remonstrated against his nomination, and Said Pasha exercised his power of veto, and withdrew his name from the list. I hear that attempts are to be made at Constantinople by M. Fournier and M. Bassoun, with Kiamil Pasha (the Mutessarif of the Ministry of the Interior) to upset Said Pasha's decision.

Kiamil Pasha will doubtless take the part of his protégé, and should your Excellency consider it proper to do so, a word from your Excellency to Mahommed Nedim would probably settle the matter if Kiamil Pasha should interfere.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 85.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 210.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 17, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two communications from the Porte in reply to representations I had made to it with regard to outrages alleged to have been committed on Armenians in the Asiatic provinces of Turkey. I communicated the substance of these papers to the Armenian Patriarch, and I inclose copy of the reply I have received from his Beatitude, with his observations on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Memorandum.

LES méfaits que les insurgés de Dersim commettent depuis vingt ans ne se limitent pas à une classe d'habitants; ces brigands s'attaquent aussi bien aux Musulmans qu'aux Chrétiens des districts limitrophes d'Eghin, de Tchémez-Guizek, d'Aghin, et d'Arabkir. Dans tous les cas les actes dont il s'agit n'ont jamais été de nature à déterminer l'émigration à Alep de la population Arménienne. De tout temps il y a eu des gens de cette communauté se rendant à Alep pour affaires de commerce; il serait souverainement injuste d'attribuer à leur va et vient le caractère d'une imigration dont on ignore complétement l'existence à Alep. Le bruit qu'on a fait répandre à ce sujet est donc dénué de tout fondement. Il importe de remarquer que l'auteur de ce bruit n'est autre que l'Evêque Arménien de la ville. Agé à peine de 28 ans, personnage remuant et renvoyé naguère de Rodosti par ses ouailles, ce Prélat ne recule devant aucune considération pour se rendre populaire; il intervient constamment dans des affaires administratives, et exagère considérablement les cas de très-minime importance. Ainsi il a élevé, dans un but facile à comprendre, à la hauteur d'un incident grave, le vol commis au village Meyavin par le nommé Tanoglou Ibrahim, et qui consistait d'après l'enquête même effective par une Commission composée par des membres Musulmans et Chrétiens en trente ocques de pain, une demi ocque de fromage, et en quelques ocques de raisin. Des mesures sont déjà adoptées pour la découverte et l'arrestation de ces fauteurs.

Sublime Porte, le 12 *Janvier*, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Telegram from Van to the Prime Minister.—(*Communicated confidentially to Mr. Marinich.*)

December $\frac{10}{22}$, 1879.

(Translation.)

IN answer to your telegram of the $\frac{8}{20}$th December (1295), nothing has as yet been heard concerning the emigration of Armenians from Van to Aleppo; and a month ago also, whilst coming from Moush, I heard nothing of the kind. Yet inquiries are being again renewed and the answer will be communicated. If news has been received of cruelties having occurred it is certain that steps will be taken to prevent their recurrence. Out of sixty people whose acts of cruelty were communicated to us on our fortuitous arrival at Van, thirty-three have been captured up to now, and a few were wounded at the time of capture. They are all in prison, and we are proceeding to bring them before the Courts.

Inclosure 3 in No. 85.

Monsignor Nerces to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, le 26 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 1er Février.

Je dois remercier votre Excellence des démarches qu'elle a bien voulu faire auprès de la Sublime Porte à la suite du Mémoire que j'ai pris la liberté de lui soumettre le 22 Octobre dernier et qui résumait les maux dont les Arméniens avaient eu à se plaindre depuis le 26 Avril jusqu'au 16 Octobre.

Votre Excellence me fait remarquer que la Sublime Porte a soulevé des objections contre l'authenticité de certains faits relatés dans le Mémoire en question. Comme les objections paraissent avoir produit une certaine impression sur votre Excellence, je me fais un devoir d'examiner en peu de mots leur valeur.

Je commence par appeler l'attention de votre Excellence sur ce fait que la Sublime Porte n'a cru trouver des erreurs que dans le récit des événements survenus en deux localités; Malatia et Van, et qu'elle a gardé le silence devant les faits déplorables qui se sont produits en onze localités: Khizan, Djabacktchour, Alashgherd, Diarbekir, Unia, Moush, Keghi, Erzéroum, Kharpout, Siart, et Bitlis.

Quant à ce que la Sublime Porte a cru pouvoir réfuter, le Prélat Arménien de Malatia avait écrit au Patriarcat: "Le Chef Kurde, Jan Oglou Ibrahim, est le fléau des

villages Arméniens du district de Dersim. A la tête de soixante Kurdes armés il a attaqué et dévalisé, dans la journée du 26 Septembre, le village de Mébadoun. Après avoir traversé l'Euphrate, ces Kurdes menacent aujourd'hui les villages Chrétiens du district d'Aghin. Un massacre serait imminent."

A ce sujet la Sublime Porte a répondu à votre Excellence: "Que les méfaits que les insurgés de Dersim commettent depuis vingt ans ne se limitent pas à une classe d'habitants—que ces brigands s'attaquent aussi bien aux Musulmans qu'aux Chrétiens des districts limitrophes d'Eghin, de Tchemezgueseth, d'Aghin, et d'Arabkir." Les méfaits existent donc, mais d'après les informations de la Sublime Porte, sur une plus vaste échelle. Votre Excellence conviendra que le Prélat Arménien n'avait à parler que de ses ouailles. Si la Sublime Porte déclare que même les Musulmans sont opprimés par les Kurdes, je laisse à votre Excellence de juger combien doit être dure l'oppression subie par les Arméniens, sans armes, sans défense, et sans protection.

Votre Excellence ajoute: "La Sublime Porte nie que les actes dont il s'agit aient jamais été de nature à déterminer l'émigration à Alep de la population Arménienne." Je dois avouer à votre Excellence que j'ai été bien étonné de lire ce paragraphe, attendu que c'est pour la première fois que j'entends parler d'émigration à Alep. J'ai cité plus haut et littéralement ce que m'avait rapporté le Prélat de Malatia, et votre Excellence pourra constater qu'il ne s'agit là ni d'émigration, ni d'Alep. Pourquoi d'ailleurs les Arméniens émigreraient-ils à Alep?

Votre Excellence m'apprend que: "La Sublime Porte attribue la paternité de ce bruit à l'Evêque Arménien de la ville d'Alep . . . . Prélat assez imprudent, à peine âgé de 28 ans, personnage remuant, renvoyé naguère par la communauté Arménienne de Rodosti." Je réponds: Le prélat d'Alep n'a pas plus parlé d'émigration que le Prélat de Malatia ou moi. Maintenant faut-il entrer dans l'examen des griefs portés contre le Prélat? On le dit jeune, il est âgé de 55 ans. Il avait été envoyé à Rodosti en mission par le Patriarcat, et il a rempli sa tâche d'une manière très-satisfaisante. Mais les autorités provinciales ont pour habitude de calomnier tout Prélat qui met de l'énergie à protéger les droits de ses ouailles.

Quant à l'incident de Meyovinhar, où Jan-Oglou-Ibrahim n'aurait volé que trente ocques de pain, une demi ocque de fromage et quelques ocques de raisin, je dois déclarer à votre Excellence que je n'ai pas eu connaissance du rapport de la Commission instituée pour examiner l'affaire. Je puis vous assurer, pourtant, M. l'Ambassadeur, que les Arméniens n'auraient jamais eu l'idée de se plaindre de vols aussi insignifiants. C'est un tribut qu'ils payent journellement, et qu'ils payeront éternellement tant que durera le système actuel, qui n'engendre que l'anarchie, et qui assure l'impunité. Dans mon Mémoire je n'ai parlé que des cas d'une gravité exceptionnelle. J'ajouterai que les mesures que la Sublime Porte déclare avoir adoptées pour la découverte et l'arrestation des malfaiteurs n'ont encore abouti à aucun résultat. Votre Excellence sait bien que c'est inutile de parler de mesures en l'absence d'une gendarmerie bien organisée, bien payée, et bien dirigée.

Votre Excellence parle aussi d'un télégramme du Gouverneur de Van, commençant par ces mots: "Nous ne savons rien de l'émigration des Arméniens soit du Sandjak d'Alep, soit de Moush. Il est par conséquent probable que le bruit est dénué de fondement." Je dois répondre encore une fois que je n'ai jamais parlé d'émigration d'Alep, ni même de Moush, dans le Mémoire que j'ai eu l'honneur de soumettre à votre Excellence.

Le Gouverneur de Van ajoute qu'il a fait capturer une partie des voleurs de la province et que ces malfaiteurs subiront leur jugement. Ce qui est vrai, c'est qu'on n'a arrêté et on n'arrêtera que des voleurs de peu d'importance. Quant aux voleurs et aux brigands qui sont la terreur de la contrée et qui frappent les grands coups, ceux-là resteront toujours impunis.

Le Gouverneur pense que les plaintes contre l'oppression et la tyrannie sont exagérées. Puissent-elles l'être! Mais combien est faible l'écho qui m'arrive des cris de douleur et de détresse poussés par mes malheureux coreligionnaires, si résignés jusqu'ici à leur sort. N'ont-ils pas d'ailleurs raison de s'abstenir de toute plainte en voyant qu'elle ne sert qu'à exciter les autorités elles-mêmes contre eux?

J'aurais pu opposer à l'affirmation dépourvue de toute preuve du Gouverneur de Van les témoignages de personnes honorables étrangères à la nationalité Arménienne. Mais pourquoi me donnerai-je cette tâche? Votre Excellence ne possède-t-elle pas les rapports volumineux des Consuls de Sa Majesté la Reine en Arménie?

Mais que signifient toutes ces dénégations des autorités Impériales et toutes ces promesses vagues, et non suivies de résultat, de prendre les mesures nécessaires lorsqu'il devient impossible de nier complétement les faits? C'est qu'il n'y a rien à faire, rien à

espérer, avec le système actuel de centralisation et de concentration du pouvoir dans les provinces Arméniennes entre les mains de fonctionnaires Mussulmans.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) NERCÈS.

No. 86.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 1.)

(No. 2. Political. Confidential.)

Damascus, February 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting upon public affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 86.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

Damascus, February 10, 1880.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to report to your Excellency that the administration of justice in this district, notwithstanding the appointments of Inspectors of Medjlisses and Public Prosecutors, leaves so much to be desired on the score of efficiency and purity, that the public generally decline to have recourse to the Tribunals in civil plaints.

In criminal matters things are better, although a recent sudden increase in serious crime, without detection of the perpetrators, would show a cessation of that energy in successfully following up the commission of crime which until lately distinguished the new police. The public safety, however, continues to be properly looked after.

As regards the shortcomings of the Judicial Courts, the chief executive authority freely indorses the justice of the general complaints, while seeking to account for them as the necessary result of the recent proclamation of the independence of the Courts enjoining its non-interference. The new regulations of the Tribunals, which came into force last summer, still remains unknown to the general public; three copies only of such, and those too in Turkish, existing in Damascus, viz., one in each Court.

The extreme impecuniosity of the public Treasury results in the police and all other civil employés being four months in arrears of salary, while those only whose position commands influence, such as the chief officials and heads of Departments, encash regularly their comparatively high stipends.

The small and irregular pay of subordinates is held by officials and by the non-suffering public generally as an all-sufficient excuse for the confusion, inattention, and irregularities which continue to pervade the public offices, and no attempt to check or control is anywhere apparent.

The military service, which is maintained out of the Civil Chest, is nine months in arrears of pay, excepting the salaries of the chief officials. In the rank and file every effort is made to diminish numbers and effect economy.

His Highness Midhat Pasha, who quitted Damascus in November last for the coast, leaving Ibrahim Pasha, the Governor, as acting Vali, has not yet returned. The latter refers every matter of importance to his chief, but with little or no result; and the Government of the country is thus left according to the popular voice, without any controlling power.

During a short tour which I made in December last in a few of the Kaïmakamliks of this Mutessariflik, I found the principal complaints to be, as in Damascus, on the score of judicial injustice, embittered and exaggerated, no doubt, by that (openly expressed) detestation of everything Turkish, which seems now to have become chronic in the country; and among no class more than among the Moslem majority of the population.

The non-Moslem portions of the communities complained, besides, of inadequate representation in the local Courts, and of the elimination from almost every post in the local administration of any element not Mahommedan.

With reference to the appointments to posts of Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams made by his Highness Midhat Pasha during the past few months, I may be permitted to observe that such often demonstrate either a lack of competent men, or the absence of proper inquiry into antecedents.

Men have been appointed to important posts whose incapacity, if nothing else, has

been publicly acknowledged and reprobated by his Highness; while others possessing unenviable notoriety have been allowed to retain their posts.

Again, corruption in the public offices is as rampant as ever, and is as freely acknowledged by officials as complained of by the public.

Although the first to acknowledge the untiring energy with which his Highness entered upon his duties as Governor-General of Syria, I regret now to state that he seems to have abandoned all attempt to ameliorate the condition of things even in those branches of the administration where some salutary supervision is possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 87.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 3.)

(No. 2. Political.)

Diarbekir, January 31, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that an Imperial Commission composed of their Excellencies Baker and Saïd Pashas arrived here on Monday, the 19th instant, accompanied by a large staff. Suleiman Pasha, the third member of the Commission, arrived some days later on.

The arrival of the Commission had been looked forward to with much eagerness by the inhabitants; but as soon as it was known, after the reading in Medjliss of the Imperial Firman, that the Commission possessed no administrative powers whatever, the inhabitants generally ceased to take much interest in the matter.

Since their arrival the Commissioners have been employed in investigating the general state of the country and its administration, and have made special inquiries into the state of the gendarmerie and police forces. A local Committee, composed of military officers, has been formed to make an inquiry into alleged defalcations on the part of certain officials connected with the gendarmerie, by which the underpaid zaptiehs have in the course of the last few years been defrauded of some thousands of pounds.

The Commissioners have also been making inquiries into the nature of the charges brought against the Kurdish Beys who were exiled by Abeddin Pasha last summer. Baker Pasha informed me that the opinion at which he had arrived—an opinion in which I fully concur—was that the exile of the Beys had been a measure productive of much good to the country, but that, owing to the unavoidable haste with which the measure had been carried out, it happened that while many of the Beys who had been exiled deserved hanging, there were some few who appeared to have been guilty of no crimes. His Excellency therefore decided to recommend to the Porte that Abeddin Pasha be instructed to return to Diarbekir to make fuller and final inquiry into the cases of the exiled Beys.*

I fully concur in his Excellency's views, and am telegraphing to his Excellency the Ambassador in support of Baker Pasha's recommendations.

If any other person were appointed to conduct the inquiry it would be an injudicious and unnecessary slight on Abeddin Pasha, and it would at once diminish his influence for good in the vilayet, where he is still nominally Imperial Commissioner for Reforms.

This inquiry ought to be held in Diarbekir, but no Beys ought on any account to be allowed to return here until finally acquitted by Abeddin Pasha. Their return now would at once undo all the good that has been done, and their presence would most certainly prevent any of the sufferers from the crimes of the Beys from giving testimony against them. I have always regarded the exile of those Chiefs as a necessary political measure of reform rather than as a punishment of the most outrageous crimes that many of them have committed.

The energetic action of Abeddin Pasha in this matter has been productive of the only solid and substantial results (as yet) of the late Imperial Commission of Reforms.

The presence of Abeddin Pasha here would also be productive of good in many matters. The process against Khourshid Bey, the late Mutessarif of Mardin, for robbery and corruption, and other matters, is dragging its slow length along in the Idareh Medjliss, presided over by the Vali Pasha, who favours the prisoner, and, as far as I can learn, it is the present evident intention of the Court to acquit the prisoner. They place on record all the answers given by the witnesses favourable to the accused, but omit to record much that is testified against him.

If Abeddin Pasha were here I do not think the Court would dare to acquit the prisoner,

* According to the papers he has been ordered to Salonica.—H. C. J.

who will probably be acquitted shortly after the departure of Baker Pasha, unless, indeed, Abeddin Pasha's presence be very shortly expected.

His presence here will also improve the position and strengthen the influence of the local police-force—his own creation, which started well, but, on account of local opposition, will very probably soon collapse unless energetically supported.

In the absence of any special instructions as to the attitude I should observe towards Baker Pasha's Commission, I have done the little that lies in my power to facilitate its task. On nearly all matters that Baker Pasha and myself have discussed together we hold almost identical opinions.

The fact of his Excellency's having no administrative powers disarms, to a great extent, the hostility he would otherwise encounter from the local officials, and his progress through the country will enable him to accumulate much valuable information, which may, if the Porte listens to and acts on his advice, be ultimately productive of much good to the country. At the same time, I cannot but repeat what I have written on previous occasions —that it is men, and not measures, that are wanted to reform the country. Until honest and capable officials be provided, no substantial reform can be expected, and until Constantinople takes the lead, nothing can be hoped for from the provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 88.

Sir J. Pauncefote to the Rev. T. C. Trowbridge.

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 3, 1880.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 5th ultimo, and to state to you, in reply, that your request with regard to the publication, in certain contingencies, of your correspondence with Mr. Consul Henderson on the subject of the letters which you have addressed to the "Times" respecting the state of affairs in Asia Minor, will be borne in mind.

I am, &c.
(Signed) JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE.

No. 89.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 11.)
My Lord, *Sivas, February* 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, despatches which I have received from Captain Stewart, 11th Hussars, and from Captain Cooper, 47th Regiment, relating to matters in the Vilayets of Konieh and Adana.

I have also to inclose copies of despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 89.

Captain Stewart to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 5. Political.)
Sir, *Konieh, December* 20, 1879.

I HAVE the honour to bring to your notice the following case, not for the purpose of asking for your interference, but to show one of the difficulties of carrying out justice in this country.

2. Rapuklu Oglou Hassan, a prisoner in the gaol here, forwarded me some days ago a petition, stating that he had been in prison seven months without trial, and that there was no case against him.

3. I brought his case to the notice of the authorities, who said that the man was a notorious robber. As to his having been confined seven months without trial, they acknowledged that it was exceedingly unjust, but added that, either through indolence or fear—most probably the latter—no one would come forward to inform against him.

4. As to releasing the man on bail, they said that, even were satisfactory bail forthcoming, it would not answer; that only quite recently a prisoner had been released on bail with the result that he absconded and allowed his sureties to be sent to gaol.

5. In this country money bail is not taken. This would appear to be a matter that might be rectified with advantage; at any rate, the option might be allowed the Court of taking it.

6. I have no reason to believe that this is an isolated case, indeed a somewhat similar one was brought to my notice some time ago, with the result that the man was liberated. Doubtless in the gaols many would be found in a similar predicament. As regards this man, efforts are being made to get evidence, and should they fail, which is probable, the man will have to be released.

7. This unwillingness to give evidence, along with the vast amount of false evidence, are standing difficulties in the way of justice. Where people are so very ignorant, timorous, indolent, and deficient in public spirit, it is impossible to expect a high standard of justice.

8. The new Courts are hardly yet in working order. Great difficulties have been experienced in finding qualified officials. The pay of the Junior Clerk, 300 piastres (2*l.* 10*s.*) a-month, is insufficient to attract the class of men wanted. The Head Clerk's pay, 1,000 piastres, is also considered insufficient.

9. As regards finance, I have the honour again to bring to your notice the almost incredible ignorance of the officials. I am assured that from the highest to the lowest few are competent to perform even a common sum in multiplication. Say 150 piastres have to be multiplied by 9, the official will write 150 piastres down nine times and add. The caimé, with its fluctuating exchanges, has been a severe trial to their arithmetic. Owing to this it took the clerks in the public office here fifteen days to make out the private pay account of an official who was leaving. With such an inefficient staff I should be much surprized if the accounts and books were not in quite a hopeless state of confusion.

10. Government is doubtless a heavy loser through the corruption of officials, but it is also a heavy loser through their ignorance.

11. The pressure for money appears, if possible, to be increasing. Havalés, or orders, from Stamboul have to be met to the detriment of the wretched clerks and officials.

12. Another point to which I have the honour to draw your attention is the total absence of system and discipline in the public offices. Clerks and officials come and go as they please; casual loungers come in, smoke cigarettes, and drink coffee; business is taken up and then thrown aside; books are not checked, no fixed hours are told off for certain duties, and generally there is no subdivision of labour and no supervision. To this want of system is to be attributed the numbers of clerks and officials that are employed, and whose sole occupation appears to be to make confusion worse confounded.

13. A small reform I would suggest is to require all documents to be signed. In the Sheri Court this is done, but not so in the other Courts where seals are recognized as legal. This system of sealing appears very faulty. Not alone can the seal be easily copied, but the mark can be easily rubbed out. An instance of this was brought to my notice not long ago. At a trial an objection was lodged against a seal. Experts were examined who differed in opinion. It was then proposed to send the document to Stamboul, which would have entailed weeks, if not months, of delay.

14. I am happy to be able to state that I hear good reports of some of the recently-appointed law officers from Stamboul. So far they appear to have given satisfaction. The Mufettish and Cadi are also spoken of as honest officials.

15. I have reported the Tijaret President at Isbarta for drunkenness and incapacity. I have no doubt he will be removed.

16. In my Report I omitted to mention that there are in this town from thirty to thirty-five Mehdressehs, or Colleges, with between 250 and 300 Hodjas, or Masters. I am told that the vast majority of these Hodjas are not even able to write a letter in their own language. To read Arabic appears to be the extent of their knowledge.

17. Another 5 per cent. has been deducted from the pay of all officials, except zaptiehs, for the purpose of forming a pension fund.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 2 in No. 89.

Captain Stewart to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 1. Confidential.)

Konieh, December 20, 1879.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that during the frequent interviews I have had with the Vali I have taken the opportunity of asking his opinion of the reforms required, and more especially about those referring to the Law Courts and Police.

2. As regards the Law Courts, he deprecates the recent increase in the number of the Courts and the appointment of expensive officials, such as the Mudai-Umum and Mufettish. He says these Courts and Inspectors may be necessary in highly-civilized communities, but expensive and unnecessary luxuries here; that the cases are generally simple, and do not require a very scientific procedure. According to him, in the capital of each vilayet there should be three Courts, namely: (1) Istinaff, or Court of Appeal; (2) Bedayet, or Court of First Instance; (3) Tijaret, or Court for Trade Disputes. In the chief towns of sandjaks, a Bedayet and Tijaret Court. The cazas he would leave as at present.

3. The officials belonging to these Courts should be carefully selected, and all sufficiently well paid to put them above the temptation of bribes as far as possible.

4. As regards the police, they are at present worthless, and insufficient in number; that the rate of pay is quite insufficient to attract the class of men wanted. Zaptiehs have to perform very important duties, and the pay should be such as not alone to entice good men into the force, but also to raise it in the estimation of the public. He also states that the present officers are quite unfit for their duty, and worthless in every respect. He recommends for them also increased pay and careful selection.

5. He appears altogether sceptical of any reforms worthy of the name till the baneful influence of the Palace at Stamboul is broken. He states that at present he is tied hand and foot, and can do but little to improve the state of his vilayet; that there is no encouragement to get rid of inefficient subordinates, the probability being that they will be replaced by equally, or, perhaps, more inefficient ones. He instances the case of the present Mutessarif of Adalia. This official qualified for his present post by officiating as Chamberlain in the Palace. After the death of Abdul Aziz he was sent as Mutessarif into the provinces. It is hardly necessary to remark that he is quite unacquainted with his duties. Another case in point is that of the present Mutessarif of Nigdeh, whose predecessor, a thoroughly inefficient official, was only got rid of after months of correspondence with Stamboul. The present Mutessarif, appointed from Stamboul, is not alone no improvement on his predecessor, but was actually removed from Kaiseriyeh for inefficiency.

6. As was to be expected, no reply from Stamboul has as yet been received to the letter forwarded many weeks ago containing propositions for the settlement of the Teherkess and emigrants. The Vali instances this also as another instance of the present wretched system of Government.

7. He strongly insists on the absolute necessity of decentralization, giving Valis the power of selecting their subordinates, and making them solely responsible for their provinces.

8. I am informed on authority that I have no reason to doubt that lately the Vali received instructions from Stamboul to throw every obstacle in the way of reforms, and to write to Stamboul to the effect that all the needful reforms had been carried out, and that the people were not anxious for any more.

9. The Vali informs me that Midhat Pasha is greatly hated by the authorities at Stamboul for the independent way he acts towards them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 3 in No. 89.

Captain Stewart to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 2. Confidential.)

Konieh, December 20, 1879.

Sir,

IN reply to your request, I have the honour to forward the following information on the trade between Turkey and Persia as sent from Scanderoon and Samsoon. Also on the state of the roads and the military aspect. It is with the greatest diffidence that I venture to write on the subject. A hurried journey from Samsoon to Diarbekir, and from Diarbekir to Aleppo, in the depth of winter, hardly qualify one to express an opinion on the subject.

1. Between Samsoon and Diarbekir I heard no mention of any trade, nor did I meet with any signs of such, as for instance caravans, &c. The port at Samsoon is an open roadstead, and frequently vessels, owing to the sea, are unable to discharge their cargoes. Portions of a made road are to be found at various places, but generally out of repair. At Amassia a former Mutessarif, Zia Bey, has constructed a very fair road for some distance at both sides of the town. For a considerable part of the distance between Kharput and Diarbekir there is an excellent road with an easy gradient. The bridges on it are very light. This road is, however, rapidly getting out of repair. It it probable that after one or two winters it will have disappeared.

2. At Diarbekir the opinion was that, with the cession of Batoum, the Persian trade would pass into the hands of Russia. So far as I was able to judge, this probability did not appear to affect the residents very much. Here I met with Commander Cameron, C.B., who appeared very sanguine of the commercial success of a railway he was projecting between Tripoli and Baghdad, via, if I mistake not, Mardin.

3. Between Diarbekir and Aleppo the country is generally flat, barren, and water scarce. The population is scanty and poverty-stricken. At Orfa there would appear to be some trade in corn, but I would judge it to be of small importance. With the exception of a bridge over the Euphrates, which has a wide sandy bed and a large flow of water in spring, the construction of a road ought to be inexpensive, the country being generally very open. Along this line the heat in summer is excessive, and Diarbekir at that season is said to be very unhealthy. Traces of a road are seen.

4. At Aleppo I was informed by German merchants that since the opening of the Suez Canal the trade of that place had greatly declined. Formerly that town was the starting point of the overland trade, but that now nearly all goods went by the Suez Canal. That what little trade remained was in the hands of Jews, who generally managed to fail after running up a heavy account with manufacturers in England.

5. Altogether, the conclusion I came to was that the overland trade by these roads was small and unimportant. As to whether a railway would bring back the trade I am unable to give an opinion, but I should feel disinclined to risk any money in the speculation. I have heard the opinion expressed that if a railway were built local trade would soon spring up, as evidenced by America. To a certain extent this is no doubt true, but at the same time, besides a considerable portion of the country being poor and waterless, there is an immense difference between the push and energy of an American and the indolence and apathy of an Oriental.

6. From a military point of view a road or railway from Scanderoon to Diarbekir and Erzeroum would be important, but of the two lines—that from Samsoon to Erzeroum, and that from Scanderoon to Erzeroum via Diarbekir—I venture to think the former by far the most important. Granting, which is probable, that a Russian advance would be towards Constantinople, and would take place during the summer, the Samsoon road has the following advantages:—

(1.) An army operating on this line would directly cover Stamboul, whereas the Diarbekir road lies wide apart, and high mountain-ranges intervene.

(2.) The army would never be at any great distance from the sea. This would facilitate supplies, and give great elasticity and security.

(3.) The climate along this line is better, and the heat not so great.

(4.) The line is considerably shorter.

(5.) Supplies are more abundant and water not so scarce.

The only advantages that I can see belonging to the Diarbekir line are:—

(1.) It runs through an open country. This advantage is greatly neutralized by the scarcity of water and by its greater length. From Diarbekir, also, the road would lead north through a very broken country.

(2.) It starts from a secure harbour. This advantage would also be obtained for the northern line by constructing a harbour at Fatza, which, according to the Consul at Trebizond's Report, would be inexpensive. Fatza also would have the additional advantage over Samsoon of being 60 miles more to the east. He, however, speaks of a Roman road passing over a height of 7,000 feet, which would lead one to suppose the hills in the neighbourhood to be very lofty.

(3.) The Diarbekir line might, perhaps, be less expensive. This is, however, hardly a military reason.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 4 in No. 89.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 17. Political. Confidential.)

Adana, December 10, 1879.

Sir,

BAKER PASHA, accompanied by Suleiman Pasha, Aide-de-camp to the Sultan, Tahir Bay, and other officers passed Mersina on Friday, the 5th instant, *en route* for Alexandretta and Aleppo.

2. From what the General told me of the nature of his mission as Inspector-General of Reforms, I fear that little good will result, as beyond the right to report to the Sultan direct, Baker Pasha seems to have little power.

The execution of any measures he may propose will depend upon the reception they receive at Constantinople, and Baker Pasha seemed to have very grave doubts as to the support he could rely upon at the Palace, where the Sultan is so easily led by his fears, and at the Porte, where Osman Pasha is evidently regarded as an obstacle to all reform.

3. The appointment of a foreigner to such a position as Inspector-General of Reforms will stir up all the jealousy of Turkish officialism. The feeling at present animating the provincial authorities is also against the success of any internal attempt at reform. In the course of private conversation yesterday the Vali of Adana spoke most contemptuously of the present Cabinet. That Zia Pasha, an exile from Constantinople, should speak bitterly is, perhaps, natural, but the feeling he expressed has been reiterated by almost every Government employé I have lately seen, from the highest to the lowest.

4. Zia Pasha is a clever, unscrupulous man, very ambitious, and despotic in his actions. His rule in Adana, through initiating certain improvements in the way of public works, has been marked by some doubtful transactions and arbitrary measures. But in spite of all his faults, Zia Pasha seems the only Turkish official I have yet met really capable of doing good to his country.

The state of affairs in Anatolia is very bad; Angora I have already reported on, and even with its energetic Vali, Adana is in a deplorable condition. The administration of the law is the subject of almost universal complaint; public safety is far from assured; the revenue is robbed in every possible way; and the finances are still further crippled by havalés which seize three-quarters of all receipts.

5. Zia Pasha has laid great stress on the power and will of the Russians to intrigue, specially referring to their liberal use of money. The allusion was so pointed that I cannot help thinking that Russia is at work in this province.

I was present at Tarsus on Sunday, the 7th, at the hoisting of the Russian flag at the Vice-Consulate. The ceremony was preceded by a *Te Deum* at the Greek church, performed by the Bishop of Adana in the presence of the Turkish authorities, after which the Bishop pronounced a laudatory address on the Czar, finishing by a "zito," which was heartily responded to by a large congregation.

6. M. Christopher Sidericondes, the unpaid Russian Vice-Consul, resides at Tarsus; he is a shrewd Greek, the leading merchant and manufacturer of Tarsus, and one of the richest men in the province. There are few Russian subjects in the Vilayet of Adana, and no commercial interests beyond the agency of a Russian Steam-ship Company at Mersina. At present I believe M. Sidericondes avoids politics, but should it ever be Russia's policy to intrigue in this vilayet she possesses the interest of the most influential man.

The Russian Consul at Aleppo has lately been appointed to the Adana Vilayet, as

well as that of Aleppo, and it is reported that he is coming here soon to spend a few months.

7. English interests have hitherto been unrepresented in Adana, except on occasional visits from the Consul at Aleppo or the Vice-Consul at Mersina, the latter of whom also represents Greece. Since the occupation of Cyprus, England has become a prominent power in this part of Anatolia, and it would be greatly to her advantage if a Consul was permanently placed in the Adana Vilayet. The province is extremely fertile, the mountains are rich in mineral wealth, and in parts there are valuable forests. With the ports of Selefkeh, Mersina, and Ayas, the only outlets for the trade of a great part of the Provinces of Angora, Sivas, and Konieh, in addition to its own, Adana possesses a commercial importance which, with proper development, ought to be second to none in Asiatic Turkey.

8. Till my arrival the only resident Consul was that of Persia, Mirza Hadi Bey; the French Vice-Consul lives at Mersina. The other Powers are represented by unpaid Vice-Consuls at Mersina or Tarsus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 89.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 1. Political.)

Adana, January 7, 1880.

Sir,

IN my despatch No. 8, Political, of the 29th September, 1879, I reported that the inhabitants of Shahr, a village in the Hadjin Caza of the Kozan (Sis) Sandjak, had been turned out of their fields. On arrival here at the end of November I heard that the villagers were still deprived of their lands, and that lately certain unwelcome intruders had established themselves in Shahr.

I brought the matter to the notice of his Excellency Zia Pasha, who immediately referred it to Sis.

Rather doubting the action of the local authorities, I went to Sis, where I found the Mutessarif had not previously heard of the affair, and had simply called for a report on receipt of the Vali's memorandum.

I accordingly went on to Hadjin. The Kaimakam there had only arrived within the fortnight, but the Cadi knew all about the matter, and was apparently the cause of delay in settling the Shahr difficulty.

However, he promised immediately to forward the decision of the Medjliss in the villagers' favour to the Kaimakam, and the latter was going to execute it at once, so that I hope by this time the fields are restored to their owners and the intruders turned out of Shahr.

2. The Vali had asked me to urge the inhabitants of Hadjin to provide funds for a doctor, and the Mutessarif had added that he wanted help for post, telegraph, and road.

At Hadjin I saw the principal inhabitants, and they agreed to provide posts for the telegraph if Government would find the wire and skilled labour necessary for their construction. I am afraid that in the present exhausted state of the Treasury this help cannot be given, as there is great difficulty in finding means even for the repair of existing lines; and though the authorities at Féké, the neighbouring caza, are willing to co-operate, the Hadjin telegraph must remain for more prosperous times.

Both at Hadjin and Féké there were urgent appeals made for a post, and since my return to Adana Zia Pasha has promised to see if a weekly messenger cannot be established between Sis, Féké, and Hadjin.

The inhabitants of Hadjin were not very ready to come forward in support of a doctor, the Municipality only offering £ T. 3 per month, but the matter was to be reconsidered, and probably by the help of some of the richer men a sufficient sum would be guaranteed to induce a doctor to settle in Hadjin.

The Moslem inhabitants begged that a Hodja might be found for their children, and one will probably be sent from Adana.

I have mentioned the above points at some length, as most of them were referred to in the petitions presented by the Armenians last September, and to show that the Vali, Zia Pasha, is apparently doing something towards the material improvement of his vilayet.

3. The head-quarters of a battalion of infantry and about 600 men are quartered at Féké. They were sent there after the Kozan Oglou rebellion of 1878, and have nothing in the world to do. The Binbashi has been employing his men in cleaning up round the barracks, and would set them on road-making if allowed. Zia Pasha is going to apply to the Seraskierate for an order to employ the men on a road between Hadjin, Féké, and Sis, and it would be a real service to the country if this application were supported at Constantinople, as without support Zia Pasha anticipates a refusal.

At present Hadjin, the centre of a large district, can only communicate with Adana by narrow mountain-tracks, but there are no obstacles which a little skill and labour could not overcome, and as far as I can judge from a hasty inspection, a carriage-road could be made with comparative ease from Adana by Sis to Hadjin and Shahr (the ruins of Comana), which could probably be continued by Azizieh to Sivas.

Such a road would be of immense advantage to the Turkish authorities in the event of renewed insurrection in the Kozan Dagh, and by opening up a new country would be of great value to commerce.

4. Public security was greater than when I visited Hadjin in the autumn. This is partly due to the cold weather and snow, and partly to the efforts made to capture Tek Tashak, for whose apprehension Zia Pasha had offered £ T. 150. When in Kozan, I heard that this brigand and his ally, Khodja Bey of Azizieh, were deserted by their men, and in hiding on the borders of Kaisurieh, and since my return to Adana the Vali has informed me of the capture of Tek Tashak in Azizieh.

5. The country north of Sis is a very beautiful mountain region, fairly wooded and watered. It is sparsely inhabited by a well-to-do race of farmers, but sufferers during the spring and autumn from the passage of the nomads, who winter in the Tchokour Ora (Cilician Plain) and spend the summer in the interior of Anatolia.

The Porte has recently sent Akif Pasha to try and settle the nomads in the Tchokour Ora, but that official is not doing any good. All complain of him—the nomads for interfering, the regular inhabitants for claiming lands as vacouf which are private property, and proposing abortive schemes of settlement, and the local authorities for making a fuss and doing nothing.

The question is one of great importance and difficulty, and unless the nomads can be dealt with liberally had much better be left alone.

Arrangements might be made so as to mitigate the evils of the passage of the tribes and herds, and there are few complaints as to the summer encampments which could not be promptly settled on the spot if the Mutessarifs and Kaïmakams were worth their salt. The very move, twice a-year, might be made a source of revenue to the roads if a light toll were levied. This tax would be no hardship, considering the damage the passage of large herds does to any path, whilst by enabling the paths to be repaired the actual transit would be facilitated.

The nomads live by their herds and flocks; these must winter in the south, as the nomads do not lay in any supply of winter forage; and, on the other hand, the absence of water, the swarms of flies, and the great heat of summer prevent the nomads spending the whole year in the Tchokour Ora.

6. The penury of the Government was more visible in the Kozan Sandjak than any I have yet seen. Neither Mutessarif, officials, nor zaptiehs had received their pay for the last six months. Since my return an order has been issued to pay all employés two months' salaries; this is only a sop, ruin is on the Government, and every one knows it.

Oriental apathy is giving way; the cry now is every man for himself, and it speaks well for Rechad Bey, the Mutessarif, that he should be as badly off as his subordinates. In the Kozan Sandjak, by this year's budget, only bedel askerié and emlak are left to meet local requirements.

These taxes will not produce an adequate sum, and some expenses must be unpaid. The question everywhere is "What will the end be?" It is too late now to introduce reforms in the provinces, unless radical changes take place at Constantinople.

7. In the Adana Vilayet, as a rule, religious and national animosities are not virulent, but at Sis and Hadjin the Armenians are showing a disposition which may in time cause serious difficulty. At Sis the Armenians have always enjoyed a certain amount of protection from the Catholicos, and though the present Catholicos does not reside at Sis, the spirit of independence matured by former protection still exists. At Hadjin the population is almost entirely Armenian, who, from their surroundings, have developed into a sturdy turbulent clan. Both at Sis and Hadjin the inhabitants are being stirred by ideas of Armenian nationality; the Zeitoun business has been much commented on, and the Armenian societies of Constantinople are busy fostering

the "sentiment of nationality." At Hadjin I was surprised by the visit of an Armenian and his wife, who described themselves as schoolmaster and mistress, but who, in tolerable French, complained of the hard fate which placed them in such an out-of-the-way town, and, at the same time, grumbled at the conduct of the British Government, which had trampled on the feelings of all Armenians by nominating a Consul to Kurdistan. These people were very fair specimens of the class who are now actively engaged fostering a spirit of discontent amongst the Armenians, and if their endeavours meet with success, they will not only make the situation of the Porte more critical than it is, but they will inevitably render any future settlement of Asia Minor more difficult than ever.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 6 in No. 89.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 25.)
Sir, *Sivas, February 7, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18 of the 26th January last, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Lazar, the Headman of the Greek village of Suleïman Keui, has been released from the Amasia prison on bail, and allowed to return to his village. I understand that the Amasia Government wish to let the matter drop, and see little chance of Lazar's obtaining a fair trial as long as the present Cadi and Assistant Public Prosecutor remain in office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 7 in No. 89.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 27.)
Sir, *Sivas, February 7, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a telegram which I forwarded to your Excellency on the 28th January last, relative to the non-publication of certain passages in Captain Stewart's Report on the Vilayet of Konieh. The remarks which Captain Stewart wishes omitted are those personally affecting the Vali and the Cadi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 8 in No. 89.

Substance of Telegram from Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, January 28, 1880.

I SHALL be at Angora on the 6th March. With reference to my despatch No. 11 of the 11th January, the Vice-Consul at Konieh wishes his personal remarks on the Governor-General and others to be omitted in printing his Report.

Inclosure 9 in No. 89.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 28.)
Sir, *Sivas, February 7, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the new system of collecting the direct taxes ("verghi," "emlak," &c.) by tax-collectors instead of zaptiehs, will be commenced in this vilayet on the 1st March next. His Excellency the Vali has selected twenty-five Armenians to collect the taxes in the Christian villages under the following arrangement, viz., that they give their services gratuitously to the Govern-

ment until the 1st March, when a certain number will be definitively appointed tax-collectors, receiving as pay 5 per cent. of the sums they collect.

I am rather doubtful of the success of the new system, and think an arrangement by which the Headmen of the villages would be held responsible for the payment of these taxes to the chests of their respective cazas at certain stated periods of the year would have been preferable.

The villagers complain much of the manner in which Government has broken faith with them in respect to the coupons granted for supplies furnished during the late war. The people were promised that the coupons would either be redeemed in cash or taken in part payment of their "verghi." These pledges have not yet been fulfilled, nor is it likely that they will be as long as the constant pressure for money from Constantinople exhausts the vilayet treasury, and forces the Local Government to extort money by all possible means from the unfortunate and long-suffering peasantry.

I am informed that a "havalé" for £ T. 60,000 has been granted to the Imperial Ottoman Bank upon the sheep tax of the Sivas Vilayet for next year, and that other "havalés" have been granted on the taxes of the same year.

I would beg to express to your Excellency my strong conviction that there is no possibility of introducing reforms into the provinces until this system of spending the revenues of the vilayets before they are due is put an end to, or brought within proper limits. The system of raising money by "havalés" is, perhaps, one of the worst that has ever been adopted, and it is almost impossible for any one who has not lived in the provinces to realize the demoralizing effects which it has on the holders of the "havalés" and on the provincial staff. If a budget were framed for each vilayet, showing the surplus which could be remitted to Constantinople after making due provision for the necessary requirements of the province, and the Porte were to limit its demands to this surplus, there would be some hope of improvement.

His Excellency Abeddin Pasha is making arrangements for the construction of a road between Samsoun and Diarbekir, so far as it lies within the Sivas Vilayet. The work is to be commenced at the end of May or beginning of June, and is to be executed by the people of the vilayet, who have by law to supply four days' free labour to the State each year.

This free labour may accumulate for four or five years, and as there is now an accumulation of four years, Abeddin Pasha proposes to call the people out for the full period of sixteen days. It is proposed that the Christians should work together under Christian overseers; and a time of year has been selected which will least interfere with agricultural pursuits. It is almost impossible to construct a good road, according to European ideas, in the manner proposed without a large amount of skilled supervision, but his Excellency is determined to carry out the work as thoroughly as he can. He has applied for trained engineers to assist the engineer of the vilayet, and intends himself to camp out during the period of road-making. The villagers will no doubt suffer some inconvenience, perhaps hardship, but the road, if completed, will be of great service to every one, and as there is no money available in the vilayet chest, the method proposed is the only one that is feasible.

Abeddin Pasha is pushing forward his plans for the improvement of the Moslem schools, and a sum of nearly £ T. 700 has already been raised by public subscription towards the erection of new buildings. Lamps have been, for the first time, placed in the streets of Sivas. A weekly newspaper has been started, and his Excellency has other plans for the improvement of the town when the frost breaks up and out-door work can be resumed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 10 in No. 89.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 29.) *Sivas, February* 9, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, a despatch which I have received from Captain Stewart (11th Hussars), relating to the state of the Local Government at Adalia.

I would beg to draw your Excellency's particular attention to the paragraphs in Captain Stewart's despatch relating to Jemal Bey, the Judge of the Bedayet Court at

Adalia, and to express a hope that his corrupt practices may be brought to the notice of the Porte.

I have informed Captain Stewart that I entirely approve of his action in refusing to receive a visit from Jemal Bey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 11 in No. 89.

Captain Stewart to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 1. Political.)

Sir, *Adalia, January* 13, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived here on the 8th instant.

2. Everywhere on the road, at Beyschehr, Karaghatsch, Isbarta, &c., I found special officials busily engaged in calling in the arrears of taxes. At Karaghatsch many were being imprisoned, and I have little doubt the same obtains elsewhere.

3. At Karaghatsch complaints were made that poor people, such as widows of those who had been killed during the war, were being sold up to meet these demands. How far these complaints were justified the shortness of my stay did not enable me to verify. I reported the matter to the Mutessarif at Isbarta.

4. It is improbable that the Treasury will be much enriched by these measures. The majority of these Commissioners, although encouraged by a bonus of 5 per cent., will most likely only use their powers to enrich themselves.

5. As regards taxation, it is not the legal amount that is heavy, but the oppressive and corrupt way in which it is collected. The tax-gatherer frequently puts off or refuses to give receipt on payment, and the peasant is either too ignorant or too timid to object. In consequence, he is frequently called upon to pay several times over. It is almost needless to remark his previous payments do not find their way into the Exchequer. I have even heard instances of peasants provided with receipts paying, when challenged, their tithes or taxes over again. With such a sheep-like, dull, and ignorant peasantry it would be almost impossible to devise a scheme under which they would not be robbed.

6. The whole of the west of this vilayet has suffered greatly for the last five or six years from locusts. The people are greatly impoverished, and many of the poorer classes are obliged to eke out an existence on a little maize, to which they add mashed-up grass or herbs. Adalia, which formerly exported, is now importing, grain. Hopes are entertained, though why I am at a loss to know, that the crops will escape this year. Should they not, it is expected there will be a severe famine. Yet, with the year before them, neither the Government nor the people make the slightest effort to destroy the eggs. A scheme for the purpose was proposed, but has of course never been carried into execution. Had the Government, when the locusts first appeared, made serious efforts to stamp them out, great misery to the people and great loss to the Government would have been avoided.

7. To the locust plague must also be added the cattle plague, the war, the caimé, loans, &c.

8. From Isbarta to this place many and loud were the complaints made against a noted robber and murderer, commonly called Kotanak. This person has for some time been the scourge of this neighbourhood. Under the all-powerful protection of Jemal Bey, a local magnate, he and his band have for long set the law at defiance and robbed and murdered as much and as openly as they liked. Kotanak has even carried his contempt for the authorities so far as to walk the streets of Adalia openly and with impunity. Lately, through the influence of Ali Riza Bey, the Imperial Emigration Commissioner, he has been imprisoned, but I am told his trial is being postponed in the hopes that the former will soon leave, when this ruffian will probably be released and allowed to continue his career of bloodshed and robbery.

9. As for Jemal Bey, the aider and abettor of these and such-like men, he is the President of the Adalia Bedayet Court. This scoundrel is the acknowledged Chief and protector of all the ruffians and murderers in the place. Having but his pay, 2,000 piastres a-month, he yet lives in the most expensive and reckless manner, thanks to the bribes he receives from the suitors to his Court and the spoil he divides with robbers and murderers. He comes of an old family, and is all-powerful in the town and neighbourhood, and quite the master of the poor Mutessarif, who is said to be in his debt. I am informed on the best authority that the Court of which he is

President has not met for any real transaction of business five times within as many months, and that even the most notorious criminals can, on payment, always escape conviction.

10. The result is that the population is in a state of fear and suspense, and few, if any, can be found willing to come forward and give evidence even in the worst cases.

11. Since my arrival Jemal Bey has repeatedly sent to inquire when I would receive him, but so notorious is his villany that I have felt justified in declining his visit.

12. I purpose to-morrow to bring the matter forcibly to the notice of the Mutessarif. Should he decline to act, I shall appeal to Konieh, and from thence by telegraph to you, to ask your assistance in ridding the country of this villain.

13. The Vice-Consul here informs me that he has reported Jemal Bey to the Smyrna Consulate.

14. I have as yet had but little time to become acquainted with the officials, but from the reports I receive, for bribery and corruption this place quite surpasses any I have yet visited. The Mutessarif, who is reported honest, is weak and inefficient, and quite deficient in the vigour and determination necessary to shake himself free of the gang by which he is surrounded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 90.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 223. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 21, 1880.

CONSUL HENDERSON has accused Nourian Effendi, the Christian member of the Reform Commission sent sometime ago to Aleppo, of being a strong partisan of French influence and French policy in the East, and of supporting the Roman Catholic priests in Syria in their attempts to promote that policy and to proselytise the Orthodox Armenians by violent and improper means. I had an opportunity of speaking with Nourian Effendi to-day, and I am free to confess that what he told me did not tend to justify this accusation. So far from showing any sympathy for the French and for the Roman Catholic priests, he fully corroborated what Mr. Henderson has reported to me with regard to their proceedings. He denounced, in strong language, the violent and unjustifiable conduct of the French Consul at Aleppo, in supporting the pretensions of the Roman Catholic clergy, and in compelling the Turkish authorities, by threats, to submit to them. He described how the priests succeeded by intrigues, and by holding out promises of French protection, to sow dissensions amongst the Armenians, and to bring over to Roman Catholicism some of the leading members of the sect. Acting with the French Consul, he said, they had thus succeeded in getting Roman Catholics elected to most, if not all, of the municipal offices to which Christians were eligible. To such an extent was this system of proselytism and interference in local affairs, in order to promote French interests and influence in Syria, carried, that, although himself a Roman Catholic, he had considered it his duty, immediately after his return here, to call upon M. Naroès, the Gregorian Armenian Patriarch, and to warn him of what was going on. His Beatitude has consequently addressed a letter to M. de Freycinet remonstrating against the conduct of the French Agents as regards the Armenians, and appealing to him to put a stop to proceedings so contrary to the principles of religious and civil liberty professed by the French Government. Nourian Effendi added that he had also brought the matter to the serious attention of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 91.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 22, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch, and its inclosures, from Captain Everett, relative to the distress in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, and reporting the steps he has taken for the relief of the suffering populations in the Bayazid district. I have expressed to him my approval of his action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 91.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 7. Political.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, February* 7, 1880.

I BEG to inclose you the translation of another petition which I received from Bayazid on the 3rd instant. I have sent back a few words of encouragement, and told the people that I hoped wheat would soon be on its way down to them.

On the 31st ultimo I received a telegram from his Excellency the Ambassador, informing me that another 25*l.* was at my disposal for purposes of relief. I immediately notified to the Vali that I was now prepared to transport twenty-five sommrs of wheat from Baïburt to Bayazid, and pointing out to him what I considered the best method of acting. I also forwarded him a list of conditions which I have drawn up, to guard, as far as possible, the English money from misuse. I send you a copy, and shall be glad to know if you approve of them. It seemed to me that without some very clear understanding it would be rather hazardous to employ the money in the manner indicated in my despatch of the 30th ultimo. I have not yet received any answer, but the Council has telegraphed to Baïburt and Chanons to know what transport can be found at these places. The Armenian Bishop here has also received instructions to spend about £T. 300, and his present intention is to use it in a similar manner, i.e., in transporting Turkish wheat into the districts.

As you will see by the accompanying Report made me by Mr. R. Chambers, American missionary, the distress is not confined to the Sandjak of Bayazid. Mr. Chambers, who for seven days has been visiting villages in the Passin district, found the distress there so great that he came back sooner than he intended, to escape from the importunate demands for relief which he had no means of affording.

You will notice that reference is made to Reschid Bey (see my despatch No. 48, Confidential). The sum expended according to their account is greater than I had anticipated, but I don't think the exact amount is at all accurately known.

From what Mr. Chambers tells me, this judicious expenditure appears to be producing a very favourable feeling towards Russia, and he states that this feeling is heightened by our apparent inability to produce any change for the better in the really miserable existence led by these unfortunate people. Mr. Chambers gives me to understand that the sentiments of the people have changed very much during the last two or three months. That in more than one case they very frankly declared they could not and would not remain longer in their oppressed condition, and that although they would prefer to be guided by England, yet if they found that she could do nothing for them they would throw themselves without hesitation into the arms of Russia, or any country which would release them from the sufferings which they now endure.

This morning I had an opportunity of conversing with two of the members of the Idaré Medjliss, and I pointed out to them the want of wisdom in pursuing a policy which was gradually forcing the Christian population of these districts into the arms of Russia, when by kindness and consideration in this hour of distress they might so easily allay the very strong feeling of discontent which at this moment prevails in the country, and which may, if it is not checked, become a source of danger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 91.

Petition from Bayazid.

Eminent British Vice-Consul, *Bayazid, January 14, 1880.*

BY means of your two visits in our country you got very precise information of the manner in which we are oppressed, of the disorders which exist, of the manner in which we are pillaged, and of the assassinations which were perpetrated, and you saw with your own eyes our extreme poverty and want, and indeed every kind of misfortune. We have also on several occasions informed you of them by petition. By your assistance orders came from the Vali to the authorities here that time should be afforded us for paying the taxes, and also that wheat should be given to the Armenian people, but till now not a grain of wheat has been given us, nor any time for collecting the taxes. On the contrary they have been, and still are, collecting them; employing soldiers for the purpose, putting us in prison, and beating us. But our present Governor deceived us, putting off the distribution of wheat from one day to another, till the roads were closed and the mountains covered by snow, and it is now impossible to bring wheat or to help us. Those who fled from the famine remained buried under the snow, and those who remained at home are near to die. The Government stores also are nearly finished, and what wheat they contained was given only to the Kaïmakams, Sheikhs, and Zabits, the Armenians being left without any. In the name of Jesus and of mankind have mercy on the poor and unhappy Armenian community. In order to relieve the distress it is necessary to send here 130 somars of wheat; if not, the destruction of the Armenian people is very near, for they have nearly finished eating their provisions and animals, and at this moment are in extreme want. No help coming from any quarter they are in despair, and can await only their death.

If, therefore, it is in your mercy to help us, do so as quickly as possible.

(Signed by 15 men; 3 of them are priests.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 91.

Captain Everett to the Vali of Erzeroum.

Excellence, *Erzeroum, February 2, 1880.*

I BEG to inform you that I have now sufficient money at my disposal to transport as much as twenty-five somars of wheat from Baïburt to Bayazid.

Since it will take three weeks to get a caravan down to Bayazid, I would suggest that a caravan be started immediately for Baïburt to fetch the first instalment of wheat, in order that no time be lost; for in the present case loss of time means loss of life. In order that you may be able to place my proposals before the Medjliss, if you think fit, I have embodied them in the accompanying document, which I should be glad to know at an early date whether you approve of.

Yours, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Proposals.

In order to carry out the object which the English people have in view, viz., to give immediate relief to the sufferers, the Vice-Consul proposes that a caravan of fifty horses be started immediately from Erzeroum to Baïburt, fetching from thence twenty-five somars of wheat. That a proper escort be provided if necessary, and that either a telegram shall be sent to the Mutessarif at Baïburt requesting him to hand over the amount of wheat to the Chief Catergi, or that an official from Erzeroum should accompany the caravan for the purpose.

That wheat so obtained shall be forwarded immediately to any of the centres of districts, either Toprah-Kaleh, Kara-Kilissa, Diadin, or Bayazid. That on arrival at the chief town, the wheat shall be handed over to the Kaïmakam for distribution; the first caravan to be sent to Toprah-Kaleh, the second to Kara-Kilissa, the third to Diadin, the fourth to Bayazid, and so on.

Conditions.

1. In using the English money for purposes of transport, it will be only from Baïburt or Chanons to either Toprah-Kaleh, Kara-Kilissa, Diadin, Bayazid, or such other place as the English Vice-Consul may expressly determine upon.

2. That the method of transport be arranged by the mutual consent of the Vali and the English Vice-Consul.

3. That the price of transport be submitted for the consideration of the Vice-Consul before final agreement is come to, and that payment shall be made by him personally to the owner of the transport.

4. That while the arrangements for distribution shall remain entirely in the hands of the vilayet, accurate lists must be furnished to the Vice-Consul of all the villages (showing race and religion) in which any portion of the wheat transported has been distributed, as well as the amount given to each.

5. That the wheat is to be given to all suffering subjects of His Majesty the Sultan, irrespective of creed or race, but that the greatest sufferers shall be relieved the first.

6. That the vilayet holds itself responsible for the safe conduct of the wheat. Should any be lost *en route* through insufficient escort or through the carelessness of the same, the money expended on the transport of the quantity so lost must be refunded to the English people through the Vice-Consul.

7. That if any of the wheat which has been transported with English money cannot be properly accounted for, or shall not have been distributed to sufferers, the transport money for any such amount shall be refunded by the vilayet to the English Vice-Consul.

8. That an order be given to the officials in the districts to make it known to the people that the wheat now brought to them has been transported through the mercy of the English people.

9. That the Vice-Consul considers himself at liberty at any time that he may think fit to discontinue transporting the Turkish wheat, and buy on his own account.

Inclosure 4 in No. 91.

Report made by the Reverend Robert Chambers to Captain Everett.

ON Monday, January 26th, we called on the Kaïmakam of Hanaukaleh on behalf of the Todeveran petition. He read to us his instructions from Erzeroum, which are about as follows:—"We have heard of much suffering on the Passin Plain. According to order, give each family as it may need, and take the money." He said he would of course have done that much without instructions, and that he was about to send men to make inquiries and distribute.

The people say he would promise only about three pots per family, and they despair of even that much. Promises have been made again and again, but not fulfilled.

Men have indeed been sent by the Kaïmakam, not to distribute wheat, but to collect taxes, two years' assessments being now due. The zaptiehs quarter themselves upon the poor people, securing the best fare for themselves and barley for their horses, all without price. A blind boy of twelve years was being pursued by them. On his behalf, however, we interceded successfully with the Kaïmakam. Poor people also, without bread or money, and living upon charity, were being mercilessly pressed. One village said, "Carry us to prison; we will be better there than here; we cannot pay."

Passin Plain, where we spent seven days, January 27 to February 2, contains about 600 square miles, in which are situated about 150 villages. Want of snow last winter, and rain last summer, accomplished the destruction of the wheat crop, so that not more than one-eighth of the amount sown was returned in harvest. Some crop was put in last fall. I did not learn how much, but probably an average acreage. We visited five villages and turned homeward, for, having nothing to give, we could not bear to listen over and over again to the stories of destitution and appeals for help.

Ichibod, population 60 families; 5 families utterly destitute at the time of our visit; many others have bread only for a few days.

Kurdish and Turkish village, near Ichibod. In 20 families are 270 persons destitute. Two cases were mentioned in which parents had deserted their houses under the impression that their children, whom they could not feed, would be pitied in their absence.

Yaghan, population 100 families; 200 persons destitute now. In two months 50 families will be added to the list of the starving.

Harsuckor, population 20 families; 4 families destitute.

Ighoo, population 40 families; destitution great; no figures.

Todeveran, 60 families; 5 families destitute now. There is wheat enough in this village, and I think in Yaghan and Komadsor, to feed the people, if the Government could be persuaded to sell it, which, however, it refuses to do. Money, however, is needed with which to buy, as large numbers of the people who have little or no wheat have no money.

Jerason; no figures. Totally destitute; the whole population, with very few exceptions, being now threatened with starvation; neither wheat nor money here.

Euzeveran, population 100 families. In same condition as Jerason. All the other villages united in commiserating the sufferings of these two. The Vali Pasha months ago promised Euzeveran 200 measures of wheat, but failed to redeem his promise. They hold a paper which shows that the Government owes them for cattle, &c., 60,000 piastres, all of which sum, however, except 12,000, has been repudiated, and the attempt is now been made to repudiate the rest. Their flocks also were decimated by the Kurds, who left the villagers a poor remnant.

Komadsor, population 100 families; 5 families destitute now; 15 will be in a few days.

When the Vali was appealed to by some of these villages he said, "What can I do; I have nothing to distribute."

"Family" is an indefinite term, and may include any number of persons from two to fifty.

Accuracy is not easily reached in this country, so that most of my figures are approximations. I have been careful, however, to under rather than over state. Incoming lists of the needy will greatly swell the numbers I have given.

We learned that Reschid Bey, the Cossack officer who distributed to the villagers, say, £T. 3,000, has succeeded in producing quite a favourable impression towards Russia. He was at first driven from Badizhivan, but afterwards invited thither, where he proved himself more generous than he had been in other villages.

The people would very much prefer British rule, but think there is more hope of deliverance from the corrupt and merciless Turks by means of Russia. Even a very modest sum distributed at once would relieve much suffering and win the gratitude of all the people.

(Signed) R. C. CHAMBERS, *American Missionary.*

No. 92.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 4.*)

(No. 229. Very Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a memorandum by Sir A. Sandison of a conversation with Abdurahman Hussni Bey, a nephew of Abdul Kader, who is employed at the Porte. I am unable to say how far the statements made by this gentleman as to the intrigues of the French in Syria are trustworthy, but the information received by Her Majesty's Government and this Embassy tend to confirm them to a certain extent. The subject is one to which my earnest attention is directed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 92.

Memorandum.

Pera, February 22, 1880.

(Confidential.)

HUSNI BEY, an employé of the Porte, whom I have known for some years, and who is a nephew of the Emir, Abdul Kader, called on me a few days ago for the purpose, he said, of warning Her Majesty's Embassy of the intrigues which were being actively carried on by French Agents at Constantinople, and more especially in Syria, with the view of counteracting, if not supplanting, British influence in Turkey.

He could not speak with authority as to what was being done here in that direction, but he was well acquainted, he said, with the feelings and opinions of his uncle, which he knew to be antagonistic to England and quite favourable to France, in spite of all that might be said by himself and others to the contrary.

He could assure me, he added, that, notwithstanding the Emir's simulated hostility to France, proofs were not wanting to show that he has invariably continued to remain faithful to her interests, and that, having failed in the attempt to carry out a plan in 1869 which was to secure to France the acquisition of Helig (a large tract of country in the neighbourhood of Port Said) he had formed during the late Russian war, the far more dangerous project of revolutionizing Syria with a similar object in view on behalf of France.

Having received at the time assurances of support from the French Government, which had even promised the Emir the co-operation of French vessels of war, his Highness had actually made preparations for getting up an extremely organized insurrection in Syria, which was to have been effected through the instrumentality of the Algerine Arabs, settled in the Sandjak of Acre, when the unexpected cession of Cyprus to England caused the scheme to fall through.

I questioned Husni Bey on various points connected with the Emir's present position at Damascus and in Syria generally. He replied that though the Emir was in the habit of dealing out secretly a good deal of money on account of the French Government to various men of standing in the town, his Highness was not able to exercise any real influence over the Arab population, but that his authority was very much felt by the Arabs of Safvet and Tabaria (Sandjak of Acre), most of whom were Algerines, and of whom there were about 4,000 settled in those districts.

These statements tended to show that the continued residence in Syria of a man of the Emir's character and energy, and the blind submission to his will of this large Colony, which might at all times reckon upon the ready co-operation of the Maronite population in any revolutionary movement, must continue to be a serious danger to the maintenance of the Sultan's authority in Syria, and to the future security of Egypt, which can only exist by the former.

I do not know how far your Excellency may feel disposed to give credence to my informant's statements, but they would, on the whole, seem to agree with all that is reported in regard to the action of the French Consuls in Syria, and the proceedings of the French Embassy here.

At any rate, I have Mahmoud Nedim Pasha's authority for stating that the latter has lately been in frequent communication with Kiamil Pasha (Under-Secretary of State of his Highness' Department and the late Vali of Aleppo, who was dismissed on the representations of Her Majesty's Embassy), through the French First Dragoman, and that his Highness cannot well believe that this newly-established intimacy has much to do with the mere transaction of the current and ordinary business of the French Embassy.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 93.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 4.*)

(No. 234.)

Constantinople, February 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Captain Clayton reporting upon the distress prevailing in the Vilayet of Van, and the measures of relief which have been adopted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 93.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 1. Political.)

Van, January 10, 1880.

Sir,

I RECEIVED your telegram asking for the latest news about the threatened famine on the 6th January, and telegraphed in reply on the same day to the effect that "In Van itself distress, but no famine. Several deaths from starvation reported

from Nurdnz, and about Bashkala it is said that many have been obliged to eat grass and roots, and even earth."

As I have already reported in my despatch No. 28, Political, of the 16th December, 1879, matters have improved in Van itself. There is corn to be had, although at a very high price, and a charitable Committee has been formed to collect subscriptions and to give assistance to those who are really in need. Lists have been and are being made in the various quarters of the city and suburbs of those who are very poor, and bakeries are to be opened by the Committee, from which bread will be sold at half price to those who are known to be very poor, but still have some means of subsistence, and given gratis to such as have absolutely no means of subsistence at all. This organization I hope will be able to meet to some extent the wants of the town, though as recent bad times have pressed hardly on the resources of all, I am afraid the subscriptions will fail before the whole period of distress can be tided over.

I have received no further information from the direction of Bashkala since that embodied in my despatch No. 30, Political, of the 24th December, 1879, but the Armenian ecclesiastical authorities informed me a few days ago that peasants had come from Nurdnz bringing intelligence of eight or nine deaths from starvation in that district. The Archbishop has sent an agent to obtain exact information on the subject with the names of those who have died. In accordance with the sanction granted by you, I intend to start on Tuesday next, the 13th instant, for Bashkala, to investigate the condition of things there.

The Commissioners inform me that when Samih Pasha arrived here all the corn in the Government magazines was handed over to the military authorities for the use of the troops. On application to him Samih Pasha has sanctioned corn to the amount of 200 kilés being issued to villagers from Hakkiari, if they are provided with papers from the Mutessarif of Hakkiari showing what their needs are, and bring beasts to transport it. I fear, however, that the 200 kilés will go but a short way in supplying what is required, and at all events in the spring seed will be most urgently required.

The Reform Commissioners are almost at a standstill at present in their labours, waiting for details as to the new organization of the Vilayets of Van and Bitlis. They have informed me that they have received a paper signed by between 600 and 700 of the Turkish inhabitants of Van. This paper calls attention to their condition, stating that they suffered much during the war, and declares that all the Moslems, including the Kurds, are very worthy people. Hope is expressed that the Commissioners will regard them favourably, but no request is made for any specific reform or any change in the existing order of things.

With reference to the disturbance in the bazaar reported in my despatch No. 28, Political, the Commissioners have informed me that it has been officially reported to them that the Chaoush who was the cause of the disturbance has been sentenced to four months' imprisonment.

As the principal thing to be desired is that soldiers and others should be shown that they cannot make attacks on or oppress Christians with impunity, I consider this termination of the affair to be on the whole satisfactory.

The Vali informed me yesterday that he had received an angry telegram from the First Minister, saying that other vilayets had sent money to Constantinople and he had not, and that it must be because he did not do his duty properly. The truth is, that the revenues of the vilayet do not now suffice even for its own expenditure now that the number of troops is increased and extra officials; Samih Pasha, the Commissioners, and their suites are here, all requiring payment of their salaries. The people are in such distress that any attempt to squeeze more out of them must produce the most disastrous results.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 94.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 4.)

(No. 235. Very Confidential.)
Constantinople, February 24, 1880.

My Lord,

THE inclosed copy of a private letter which I received to-day from Baker Pasha will be read with interest by your Lordship. I venture to request your Lordship not to allow his letter to be published, as it is not desirable that it should be known at the Porte, where there is much jealousy and suspicion of Baker Pasha, that I am in private correspondence with him.

On the whole, it appears to me that the account he gives of his proceedings hitherto leads to the hope that his mission will not be altogether unsuccessful. I shall endeavour to persuade the Sultan to have Baker Pasha's reports sent direct to him without their being curtailed or modified by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 94.

Baker Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Diarbekir, February 1, 1880.

WE reached Diarbekir about twelve days ago after many delays on account of the extraordinary severity of the weather. I came here by way of Mardin, as I was anxious to see the desert, and to study both the questions of possible railway communications and the condition of the nomad tribes.

The whole country we have passed through is in a terribly neglected state, but more has been accomplished in the way of communications in this vilayet than in that of Aleppo.

Curiously enough, all the work done here dates from the time of Vali Kurd Ismail Pasha, a man of no education, but who is very highly spoken of by all classes. I am surprised to find how much less Armenian agitation exists in this vilayet than in that of Aleppo.

From conversations which I have had with many leading Armenians, I am quite sure that they have formed ambitious ideas for the future, which are not only quite impracticable, but dangerous in their own interests. It is only necessary to know this country in order to see the utter absurdity of any scheme of Armenian autonomy. The Armenians are everywhere in a minority, generally comprising only one-third to one-fifth of the inhabitants. An autonomy would only place them entirely at the mercy of the Kurds, who form the great majority of the population. Their condition would be ten times worse than at present. Moreover, the agitation on their part of such an idea naturally excites the Turkish authorities against them. All my inquiries go to prove that although the administrative state of these provinces is deplorable, the Mussulman population suffers much more than the Christian.

Up to the present moment I have met with no obstruction whatever in making my inquiries, and I have been received everywhere with the greatest respect and cordiality both by the people of all classes and by the authorities. Bad as is the general state of the country, I should see nothing hopeless about it were it not for the financial position and action of the Government at Constantinople. But it seems to me that the recent system of drawing "havalés" upon the vilayets against revenue which does not exist must soon plunge the provinces into a state of the most hopeless ruin and disorder. It is perfectly absurd to talk of reforms whilst such a practice continues.

I may sum up the main evils that I have noticed as follows:—

1. Intense corruption on the part of the Government officials, which corruption, even when proved, form no bar to their future employment and advancement.
2. Loss of revenue and oppression of the people from the mode of collecting the taxes.
3. Utter neglect of roads, communications, and public works of great necessity.
4. Absence of any systematic attempt to improve Public Instruction.
5. Want of an efficient organization of the gendarmerie, and consequent absence of public security.
6. Confusion arising from the want of a proper census and Government survey.
7. Extreme centralization of administrative authority in Constantinople.

Against these evils one may set off the great richness and possible development of the country, and the quiet nature of the people, which would make it perfectly easy for any moderately good Government to bring about great prosperity and to allay all religious differences.

The new regulations for the Tribunals are beginning to work, but they are scarcely understood at present, and there is a want of proper distinction between civil

and criminal procedure. The change has naturally brought about rather a block of business, but when in order, it will be a great improvement on the old system. But it is not applicable to the parts of the country inhabited by the nomad tribes, and this point demands a solution.

You will have heard by telegraph the conclusions at which I have arrived relative to the Kurd Chiefs and others imprisoned at Aleppo. I found that their cases differed materially. There are amongst them men who ought to be hanged, and others who are comparatively, if not wholly, innocent. But the general effect of the deportation has been excellent, and it would be the height of folly to destroy it.

You know how strong are Turkish jealousies, and that if I had referred the matter to a new Commission it would most certainly have upset all that Avedies* has done.

It is most important not to weaken the prestige of his acts, although they have in some cases been hasty and ill-considered. I have therefore proposed to the Government that the whole matter should be referred anew to Avedies* and his Commission, in order that they may adjudge definite sentences according to the gravity of the respective cases.

Up to the present moment, although pressing for it continually, I have not been able to get from Constantinople any definite basis for the organization of the gendarmerie. The provisional reorganization sent out some five months ago is a mere sham, and the so-called new force is already two and three months in arrear of pay, and without any definite organization. I am convinced that the voluntary system will not answer, and the men must be taken from the best recruits called up annually for military service. I have proposed that the police should be paid by the Municipalities. This will lighten the expense thrown on the Government for the gendarmerie.

I get on very well with Said Pasha, and am generally well-satisfied with my staff, but the position of Suleiman Pasha is rather indefinite. Said Pasha (English), at Aleppo, gave him the very worst character. He missed me the day of our leaving Aleppo, and only rejoined here. I hear privately that he has a telegraph cypher with him, and that he is in constant telegraphic communication with the Palace. This has not come before me officially, but I think it well that you should know it. Chermside arrived a few days ago. I need scarcely say that I receive every aid from him and from Trotter. If we had but a few dozen such men distributed through Asia Minor, I should look forward less anxiously to possible eventualities.

I leave this in about a week for Baghdad, and shall then go by Mosul to Van, probably by your old route.

(Signed) V. BAKER.

No. 95.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 4.*)

(No. 230.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 25, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a despatch I have received from Captain Stewart, reporting upon various matters of interest in the Vilayet of Adalia.

There has been no time to make a copy of the despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 95.

Captain Stewart to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 4. Political.)

Sir, *Adalia, February 8, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that a well-attended and influential meeting was held here on the 27th January, to select a Committee and decide what measures should be taken for the destruction of the locusts.

2. A Committee of twenty members, half Christian, was appointed, and Ali Riza Bey was elected President.

3. This Committee has decided to call on each male throughout the Mutessariflik to find or purchase 4 okes of eggs: children under seven years 2 okes. An oke of

* *Qy.* Abedin.

eggs to be valued at 5 piastres. As a check on robbery all the eggs are to be sent here.

4. An effort was made to include women in this rating, but failed, owing to the opposition of the Mahommedans, who stated that it was contrary to their religion, and a disgrace to them to be asked to give the number of their women.

5. Several of the Mukhtars of villages have been called in, the matter explained to them, and orders given to at once get the people to work. Telegrams and messengers have been sent to the out districts, shops have been appointed in the town where the eggs will be purchased, and the Vali has been communicated with by telegraph with a view to having operations begun in the neighbouring Mutessarifliks.

6. I have some hopes that the Committee will be successful. It is happy in its President, Ali Riza Bey, who is full of energy and entoprise.

7. I am afraid that in my last despatch I credited the Notables with a desire to hoard. Doubtless some of them do so, but the larger number spend their money as easily as they get it. Their great object is to impress the neighbourhood with their hospitality, their style of living, their grandeur, power, &c. With this in view they keep open house, have a large staff of useless servants, a numerous harem, horses, &c. As they are unable to keep accounts they are robbed by their servants, and many are doubtless heavily in debt. Their chief aim in life is to eat, drink, and sleep, and intrigue for posts under Government, or else positions in the local Councils in order to increase their wealth by unlawful means, and damage their enemies. The servants follow in the wake of their masters, are bribed to influence them, and in some cases tyrannize over them by the intimate knowledge they have of their misdeeds. These remarks apply also, although, perhaps, in a somewhat mitigated sense, to the official class. Doubtless the officials are generally very underpaid, but if they were satisfied to live with less show and greater thrift, they might, perhaps, be able to retain their character for honesty.

8. Lately I have spent a considerable time every day in the Government offices watching the process of collecting the arrears of taxes. It is melancholy and depressing to listen to the tales of robbery, bribery, and corruption that are unfolded. In some cases the arrears date back eight or more years. The debtor has been repeatedly called upon to pay, but has hitherto, by a judicious bribe, always managed to put off the evil day. Sometimes the tax called for has already been paid several times over to the headman of the village. This official, instead of crediting the amount to Government, retains it for himself or his employer, some influential personage. In other cases a Notable has agreed to pay the taxes of a village on the understanding that he is to reap some advantage, getting, for instance, the monopoly of some local product. The peasants fulfil their share of the contract, but the Notable defers carrying out his from one year to another. Now when called upon to pay he tries to shirk all responsibility, and to throw the burden on to the peasants. In other cases, corn has been advanced by Government to relieve some temporary local distress. The Notable gets the corn consigned to him for distribution, and takes care to make a handsome profit out of the transaction. Many of the arrears are due by wealthy individuals, who, through their local influence, have delayed payment for years, and now find it excessively hard that Government should charge interest. Imaums, dervishes, and other holy men are frequently to be found among this class. In other cases the money has been paid but receipts refused, and the peasant frightened away.

9. This gross laxity in the collection of taxes has been a terrible misfortune to the country. Not alone have the people been called upon to pay at once, and at a very unpropitious time, sums which ought to have been spread over a number of years, but they have also been taught to trust for avoiding payment to the venality, soft-heartedness, and indolence of the officials. The wholesome training, that on a certain day they will infallibly be called upon to pay sums for which they ought to make due preparation by work and self-denial, has been wanting; and what, perhaps, might have tended to improve has only confirmed them in their indolent, shiftless, and improvident mode of living, putting off to the morrow what ought to have been done to-day, and trusting to a happy accident or charity to save them from a threatened evil. This miserable state of mind was lately exhibited by the headmen of some villages near here, who, when asked to take measures for the destruction of locusts, replied, "Why should we toil? surely the Sultan will feed us." At another village near Afium Karahisar they replied, "Why should we set to work to destroy the locusts? We have sufficient for our immediate wants, and they are welcome to the rest. Are we not told to make all guests welcome?"

10. As is to be expected, agriculture is in a very backward state. Large tracts of rich land are left uncultivated or have gone out of cultivation, and the little that is cultivated is worked in the most slovenly and superficial manner.

To account for this state of things, besides the natural indolence of the people, and in this neighbourhood the locusts, there is: (1) The great insecurity of all property. (2) The scarcity of labour, due to the numbers called away to the army. (3) The dearth of cattle. (4) The want of encouragement and education. (5) The high rate of interest, the mumafi or fund formed some years ago by the peasants for mutual assistance having long since found its way into the pockets of the Notables. I am assured by old residents that since the time of the Crimean war the impoverishment of the people has been quite remarkable; that some twenty years ago there would have been no great difficulty in finding in most villages peasants in possession of 1,000 piastres ready money, but that now it is doubtful if the whole village would be able to raise 100 piastres. This statement may be exaggerated, but there is no doubt that the condition of the peasantry has altered enormously for the worse.

11. As regards Jemal Bey, I was informed some days ago that he had declined being nominated a candidate for the Idaré Medjliss. I have since heard that he has changed his mind, and is again intriguing to be returned. As he is originally from the Morea, the Moreau Turks here support him. I have spoken to the Mutessarif, and informed him that it will be my duty to protest against the election. I have also written to the Vali, who will, I am sure, agree with me.

Should Jemal Bey's name appear in the nomination papers, it is generally supposed that although the bulk of the people hate and abhor him, they will, through fear, vote for him. This appears very unfavourable to the idea that liberal institutions, parliaments, popular suffrage, &c., would benefit this country. So far, the only result apparent from giving the people a vote has been to increase the influence of certain Notables, to raise up a class of needy and servile adventurers who might perhaps have done well enough in business, but find it both easier and more profitable to become members of Councils, to vastly increase the number of recipients of bribes, and to diminish, if not altogether remove, the sense of responsibility from the rulers. In a country such as this, where there is no patriotism, no public spirit, no moral courage, no leisured and monied class, and no education, it is hopeless to expect that the spirit of liberal institutions could possibly be understood, or that capable and honourable men would sacrifice their time to the public for the wretched salaries now given.

12. As for the Mutessarif, he is still infatuated with Jemal Bey, and would, I am sure, be greatly pleased to see him returned. As a Governor he is utterly incompetent, constantly bemoaning the shortcomings of the officials, but without the strength of will to correct them, and always seeing difficulties where really none exist. He has frequently sent in his resignation.

13. I hear the public accounts are in an almost hopeless state of confusion, which is not to be wondered at considering the frequent changes of officials, and that the chief clerk or accountant is hardly competent to perform a sum in addition.

14. As an instance of the extent to which bribery has been carried, there are men hanging about the public offices here whose business it is to negotiate the bribes required by the officials; in other words, brokers in bribery.

15. One of the chief scoundrels here, the Bimbashee, or Chief of the Police, has just received orders transferring him to Rhodes, where it is to be hoped he will not find such a scope for his talents.

16. As for the Greek population, I am unable to speak in its favour. They are a selfish, mean, spiritless, and untruthful race. There is little or nothing they will not do for gold. Their one rule of conduct appears to be, "Let all be sacrificed; let justice, truth, and straightforward dealing be bye-words, provided a few piastres can be made." Being more cunning than the Turks, they are frequently the moving spirits in many of the intrigues, robberies, and other injustices that occur. They talk of what they suffer under the Turkish régime, but I am convinced they would be the first to regret any change for the better. Few know Greek, or have any desire to know it. As for their "papas," or priests, the less said about them in the interests of religion the better.

17. Altogether, from the little I have seen of the Mahommedans and Christians in Anatolia, I think they might fairly be divided into two classes, namely, those who rob and those who are robbed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 96.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 4.*)

(No. 242.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 25, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of an interesting private letter from Lieutenant Chermside, who is now with Baker Pasha at Diarbekir. The country visited by him is almost unknown to European travellers. He informs me that in the Ghinour-Dagh he discovered some curious Assyrian sculptures and many ancient ruins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

Dear Sir H. Layard, *Diarbekir, February 2, 1880.*

BAKER PASHA has been here about ten days, and will leave in about a week. I travelled here separately. He wrote his Report on Aleppo at Corfu, and has promised to show it to me, or parts of it, but as he has not yet done so, I have not a despatch to forward on the subject. When written I will forward it to Colonel Wilson. I travelled about a good deal in Mesopotamia doing topographical work. Colonel Wilson is very pleased at my being allowed to make this journey. I have written and told him that, as it would take much time to prepare Reports which might better be spent in personal observations, I proposed to confine myself to making notes to be worked out afterwards.

The whole of the country between this and Aleppo is in a miserable state; indeed, one bordering on famine. The snow-fall, almost unprecedented, has been great, and the ground covered with snow for five weeks; the cold is intense. The people as you know are utterly unprepared for this, and are but lightly clad, and only furnished with a small store of ox and camel dung fuel for cooking purposes.

The live stock, commencing with the sheep, has been dying off in thousands; in almost every village one found 12 up to 500 dead animals and few survivors. Of course, no one knows the loss yet even approximately, not even the villagers themselves, as many of the flocks are at distant pastures. In Urfa sheep were for sale at 10 and 15 piastres a-piece, and no buyers, as there is no food for them. Forage is at famine prices, and "saman" or chopped straw a piastre per oke, and often more. In addition to this the failure of last year's crops has left the villagers but little grain; wheat, for example, ordinarily at 60 to 80 piastres the kilo of 180 okes, is now selling at about 400 piastres per kilo, and barley at about 300 piastres. In many of the villages I couldn't get a feed of barley for the horses. Here there is a scarcity of grain, but not as great as at Mosul, to which place export by raft has been just authorized by the Vali. At Kharput and Sivas there is a good deal of grain, some of which will find its way here if the roads are open. There are 2,000 destitute in the town supported by charity. In the rural districts the severity of the winter will have occasioned considerable loss of human life I expect. The loss of sheep and goats will very seriously affect the revenue of the district, a large portion of which is derived from the "aghnam" or sheep tax, as will also the losses of the inhabitants, who will be unable to pay their property tax, &c.

Apart from these, the whole country is in a miserable state, and the Kurdish sedentary population say the Government has quite ruined them. The expressive Turkish word "perishan" is generally used. In many places they seem to execrate the very name Osmanli. The officials with reduced salaries and provisions almost at famine price are very discontented, the zaptieh unpaid and for the most part without any uniform, some having had none for four years. In places, as at Urfa, the bread ration has been stopped, or very intermittently furnished, and the forage ration for their horses suspended, so that some of the poor brutes can hardly get along. Peasants, officials, zaptiehs alike, flood one at every place with a string of well-founded complaints. The Governors-Kaïmakam find themselves with inadequate numbers of ill-equipped, unpaid police, and their authority remains a shadow, and crimes and outrages go unpunished, and yet with all this such is the traditional patience and fortitude of the

population that the country is very quiet. Urfa Sandjak is in a very bad state, and complains bitterly of the ruin brought on it by the Aleppo Government, and that they get nothing in return for what they give. I did my very best to get the Reform Commissioners last year to visit it, as you will remember. Curiously enough, little as I have seen of it, this vilayet strikes me as being in a better condition to bear both. Baker and Said Pashas say the same thing. The latter used the expression "atmosphère morale," affirming it better, and so it seems, though all of us have had but little experience yet. After conversation with Trotter, I am inclined to think that this universal state of disaffection does not forbode the same danger to the Government that it would in another country, or an equal danger to that menaced by the chaos at Constantinople and the financial ruin the overdrawing of "havalés" on all the provincial treasuries must end in.

There is little chance of any of these movements being anything but spasmodic and disconnected, or beyond the power of the Government to cope with for years to come, except perhaps in the case of the Arabs; the general disaffection is wanting in cohesion, and coalition of the disaffected elements improbable, owing to traditional feuds and class and religious hatreds and prejudices, so that unless some exterior exciting cause, either from Constantinople or due to political agitation or invasion from without, occur, there is no great chance of combined action, or even of the movements being simultaneous.

The more one sees of this curious mosaic of peoples, the more one becomes convinced how easy it would be for a strong paternal Government to rule them. The Government has no rival to dread; no possibility of an organized opposition of any strength; no probability of a powerful coalition against it among the races and peoples it governs.

I wonder if at Moosul I shall have time for an expedition into the Nestorian country, and whether any measure of prosperity has returned to the Tyari district and that of Ktoma, whose terrible fate followed so quickly on your visit years ago. With the old despotic Government, the one Medjliss, the irregular police, bad as it all was, if the people are to be believed, years ago they were better off than they are now.

As regards the population, rural I mean, there is a singular apathy as regards Baker's mission, perhaps partly owing to the inclemency of the season; but even in the towns it seems to excite very limited interest beyond the great hope that it will be a forerunner to a railway. The chance of a trunk line paying is more shadowy and problematical than ever, and I have been in no place in Asia Minor yet where the ordinary local traffic would seem to warrant more than a tramway, steam or horse. Mineral resources are, of course, a different matter.

These Reform Commissions have been indeed a dead failure. Of the Aleppo one I have written more than I fear you can have cared to hear. From Trotter I learn that the Erzeroum Commission did even less, and was more of a farce. Here, as I came along, I found the effect of Abedin Pasha's Commission has been very transient, and that it has been unduly puffed. The same petitioners are anxious to present the same petitions. True, that they have been already examined, and orders to redress the grievances written or even telegraphed, but the local Governors' apathy or inability have, at any rate in the cases I know, failed to carry these out. Few petitions, at any rate comparatively, are presented to the present Commission.

The one great act of Abedin Pasha, the exile of the Kurdish Chiefs, was, it would appear, a wise act, but over-hastily, almost foolishly, executed, owing to want of time and a fear of untoward results in case of delay. The majority seem guilty, but the degrees of guilt are very varied, and there is little doubt that some of those now prisoners at Aleppo will have amply redeemed their misdeeds by their imprisonment. If the principal misdoers are only to be visited with the punishment of banishment, a few seem innocent.

Baker has adopted the judicious course, as he finds here and at Mardin what an excellent effect the act has produced, of telegraphing to the Porte, asking it to refer the matter to Abedin Pasha for final revision, as there appear to be some doubtful cases.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 97.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 13.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March 6, 1880.*

I HAVE received and read with very great interest the complete and valuable Report on the Vilayet of Konieh, and the memorandum on reforms prepared by Captain J. D. H. Stewart, which were forwarded to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople with your despatch No. 11 of the 10th January last.

In compliance with your request, I now transmit to you eight copies of these documents, and I have also forwarded some extra copies to Sir H. Layard for his Excellency's use.

I avail myself of this opportunity to request that you will convey to Captain Stewart my best thanks for the pains he has taken in the preparation of these very useful documents.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 98.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 9.)

(No. 3. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, February 25, 1880.*

I HAVE been informed that Sirri Pasha, the Governor-General of this vilayet, has three days since received a telegram from the Minister of the Interior, in which, in consequence of an accusation brought against him, he is admonished in rather strong terms not to interfere in any way with the reformed Courts of Justice, lately established in this vilayet.

Sirri Pasha, who has in no way deserved the warning which he received, asked for explanations from the members of the Courts in question, who, being strangers to the complaint, hastened to wire to the Porte that it was entirely groundless, so far as they were concerned.

The leading members of the community of Trebizond on hearing of the occurrence signed, of their own initiative, a memorial to the Porte on behalf of Sirri Pasha, who is held in very high esteem by the general public.

It is supposed that the complaint against him emanates from Samsoon, which town the Governor-General lately visited, and where he had to recall some functionaries to the sense of their duty.

In conscientiously and energetically performing his duties, Sirri Pasha must, of course, have created to himself enemies, and I am told that there are amongst them two Pashas and a Judicial Inspector, whom he caused to be recalled from their posts in this vilayet.

As fresh groundless accusations may again be brought against him, I consider it my duty, in justice to himself, and for the benefit of his Government, to bring to your Lordship's notice the circumstances in question, and to say a few words on Sirri Pasha's character.

In referring to my despatch No. 46 of the 12th May, 1879, your Lordship will perceive that I had, so far back as that date, already formed a high opinion of Sirri Pasha's merits, an opinion which, I am glad to say, has been fully justified by the manner in which he has ever since administered this vilayet.

Since my return here, I have heard nothing but praises of him from all classes.

Sirri Pasha looks to everything by himself; he works day and night, and, I may say, overworks himself, as he also performs duties which his subordinates do not fulfil to his satisfaction. I need not add that on money matters he is of the most honourable character.

In my opinion, and in that of competent foreigners who have known him in other posts, he is one of those gifted functionaries of whom, unluckily, so few are now to be found in Turkey.

I do not hesitate to say that Sirri Pasha, possessing as he does to such a high degree ability, honesty, and energy, and being intrusted with more extensive powers than those now enjoyed by Turkish Governors-General, would efficaciously and speedily promote the welfare of the province, and of the populations confided to his care.

The Porte herself must be fully satisfied with his administration, owing to his having managed to collect important arrears, which since several years were due by the rich classes, and the fact that notwithstanding this circumstance (one of the greatest recommendations in the present difficulties of the Turkish Government), denunciations against Sirri Pasha should have been followed by an immediate strong remonstrance, induces me to believe that, unfortunately, his detractors have influence in high quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 99.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 247.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of two notes which I have recently addressed to the Porte in regard to the assassination by Turkish brigands, at Kemer, of one of the agents of Mr. Hadkinson, an English merchant residing at Smyrna. The case has been reported to me by Mr. Consul Dennis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 99.

Note Verbale.

Constantinople, February 8, 1880.

HER Majesty's Embassy has the honour to call the serious attention of the Sublime Porte to the inclosed translation of a letter giving the details of the assassination of Mr. Hadkinson's agent at Kemer, the port of Adramyti, by Mussulman brigands.

Mr. Hadkinson is a British merchant residing at Smyrna, who has a factory of oil-cake at Kemer, where his interests are of considerable importance. He states that though the ruffians who committed the crime are well known to the local authorities, they have hitherto been allowed to rob and murder with impunity; and complains that the Kaïmakam of Kemer displayed great indifference when this murder was reported to him, and suffered so much time to elapse before he took steps to capture the perpetrators of it, that the efforts of the police were necessarily ineffectual. He adds that his agents refuse to remain any longer at Kemer, as their lives are in hourly danger, and that his interests are therefore seriously jeopardized.

Her Majesty's Embassy has previously called the attention of the Sublime Porte to the alleged prevalence of crime and brigandage in the Vilayet of Ardin, but the reports have been denied by the Turkish authorities. It has now the honour to demand that immediate and stringent orders be sent to the proper authorities to arrest the murderers, to cause a strict inquiry to be made into the facts of the case, to punish the officials who by their negligence contributed to the escape of the criminals, and to take measures for the protection of Mr. Hadkinson's agents and interests at Kemer.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 99.

Note Verbale.

Constantinople, February 26, 1880.

REFERRING to its *note verbale* of the 8th instant respecting the murder of Mr. Hadkinson's agent at Kemer, Her Majesty's Embassy has the honour to inform the Sublime Porte that, according to a letter received from Mr. Hadkinson, it would appear that no steps have yet been taken by the Turkish authorities to arrest the murderers, or to insure the security of life and property in that district.

Mr. Hadkinson states that, on the 13th instant, four Turks stopped a man in the service of Mr. Miliaka, his surviving agent at Kemer; he was detained two hours, the robbers demanding money and insisting on knowing when Mr. Miliaka would have to visit the neighbouring villages, doubtless with the object of attacking and robbing him whenever he should do so.

Her Majesty's Embassy has the honour to again call the earnest attention of the Sublime Porte to the deplorable state of affairs existing at Kemer, and to inquire what measures have been adopted to comply with the demands made in its above-mentioned note.

No. 100.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 248.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Report on the Vilayet of Kastamuni, drawn up by Lieutenant Kitchener, which I have received from Colonel Wilson. Colonel Wilson states that, owing to the length of this Report, he has been unable to make a copy of it, and requests that, if it be printed, a copy may be sent to him. I would suggest that a printed copy should also be sent for the Archives of this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 100.

Report on General Administration of the Vilayet of Kastamuni.

Government Officials.—The Vilayet of Kastamuni is divided into 4 sandjaks, 3 of which are ruled by Mutessarifs, while the 4th is directly under the Vali; the 4 sandjaks contain 17 Kaïmakams and 27 Mudirs.

The principal officials are:—

* Vali, his Excellency Ghalib Pasha, pay per month, 20,000 piastres.
Inspector of Justice, recently appointed to carry out reforms, Assim Pasha.
* Defterdar (Accountant-General), Ismaïl Zika Effendi, pay per month, 5,000 piastres.
* Secretary of Vilayet, Shakir Bey.
* Mufti, Abdla Ilmi Effendi.
Colonel of Gendarmerie, Hussein Bey.
* President of Criminal Court.
" Commercial Court.
* " Evkaf Commission.
" Municipality.
" Education Commission.
The Medjliss Idareh.
" Sherat.
Controller of Sandjak of Kastamuni.
Inspector of Forests.
" Telegraphs.
" Tithes.
Assistant Accountant-General.
Procureur Impérial.

These form the principal members of the Government Staff at Kastamuni. Those marked with a * are *ex officio* members of the Council of the vilayet; 2 Mahommedans and 2 Christians are elected by the town to this Council.

The Sandjak of Kastamuni contains 8 Kaïmakamliks or cazas; they are:—

Incboli Caza contains 3 Mudirliks; Tashkupru Caza contains 1 Mudirlik; Zaframboli Caza contains 3 Mudirliks; Tosia Caza contains 1 Mudirlik; Dada Caza contains 1 Mudirlik; Aratch Caza contains 2 Mudirliks; Iskelib Caza contains no Mudirliks; Gideh Caza contains no Mudirliks. There are also 4 Mudirliks directly under Kastamuni.

The Sandjak of Sinope:—
Mutessarif, Mehmet Shefik Bey, pay per month, 4,500 piastres.
Accountant-General, Mufti, Secretary, and the Presidents of the different Courts similar to those at Head-quarters.

There are 2 cazas ruled by Kaïmakams:—Boyavad contains 1 Mudir; Istephan contains 1 Mudir. There is also 1 Mudir directly under the Mutessarif.

The Sandjak of Changora:—
Mutessarif, Ahmet Velim Pasha, receives 4,500 piastres per month.
The same staff as at Sinope:—

There are 2 cazas:—Kalajik contains one Mudir; Cherkesh contains 2 Mudirs. There are also 3 Mudirs directly under the Mutessarif.

Sandjak of Boli:—
Mutessarif, Ali Riza Bey, pay per month, 7,500 piastres.
The same staff as the other sandjaks.

There are 5 cazas ruled by Kaïmakams:—Heraclea contains 1 Mudir; Duztche contains 1 Mudir; Gemuk (Torbaly) contains 2 Mudirs; Keredeh contains 1 Mudir; Bartan contains 2 Mudirs. There are also 2 Mudirs directly under the Mutessarif.

His Excellency Ghalib Pasha arrived here on the 5th November last from Aleppo, where he was Vali, until replaced by his Excellency Said Pasha; he has also been Minister of Finance at Constantinople. As his Excellency has been here for so short a time, it is difficult to judge of his intentions with regard to necessary reforms; but the fact that his Excellency had to be replaced at Aleppo in order to carry out reforms tends to show that they are not supposed to flourish under his auspices.

Nothing since his arrival here has given cause to alter this supposition.

Assim Pasha, the Special Commissioner for carrying out reforms in the Courts of Justice, has been here for nearly three months; as he has been employed up to the date of his recent appointment in finance matters, he acknowledges his ignorance of the law and of the new régime that he has been sent to introduce.

He has done nothing to correct the bribery and corruption that exists in the Courts of Law here, and I have reason to believe that these practices thrive under his auspices.

The Mutessarif of Changora, Ahmet Velim Pasha, is a very inefficient Governor; he allows the officials under him to rob the Government with impunity, and has not the capacity to rule his sandjak properly.

The Mutessarifs of Boli and Sinope are more capable men, and though some complaints have reached me about the former, I have no reason to believe that he is not able and willing to govern his sandjak with justice.

The Kaïmakams are, as a rule, well adapted for their posts, and I have found no difficulty in arranging small matters of injustice with them that have been brought to my notice.

The great drawback to the proper government of the country is the want of cohesion amongst the officials. Superior orders are very rarely obeyed by subordinates unless it suits them to do so, and as the Vali has not the power of dismissal, these disobediences pass unpunished.

The pay of Kaïmakams and lower officials is not sufficient to allow them to live in the manner that their position requires. The Kaïmakams receive from 1,200 piastres to 1,700 piastres a-month, and the late reduction of 10 per cent. has further reduced this sum. The payment of these salaries is often several months in arrear.

The misappropriation of Government money and the extortion of sums, in the shape of bribes, from the people, is not looked upon with any degree of shame, and is openly spoken of, the value of an appointment being not so much the salary as what can be made out of it. The insufficient pay is stated as a reason for this state

of things, and several officials have acknowledged to me that they could not live unless they took bribes and extorted money from the people by the means at their disposal. This system has so impregnated the whole of the officials of the Empire that no individual Governor can eradicate it from a district; the attempt is sure to bring about the downfall of the Governor, who at once has all his subordinates against him.

The officials do not trust one another; the power of the Medjliss is very much against any improvement; by a very simple intrigue they get a petition signed against a Governor of whom they disapprove, and he is at once removed; thus the Governor only rules as long as they please, and as they are almost always a mass of bribery and corruption, he must either aid them or go.

Influential religious men have too much power and authority, and their complaints against officials are too often heard. The simple statement that the religion will suffer from such an official's rule is sufficient to cause his removal.

The powers of the Vali are not sufficiently full, and his maintenance of office is too insecure to allow an upright man to act independently.

Justice.—The Courts of Law in the capital of this vilayet are now undergoing some reorganization.

A Special Commissioner, Assim Pasha, has been sent for this purpose from Constantinople; but as he is quite incompetent for the task, he has only succeeded in doing away with the old systems without substituting anything in their place; the result is a considerable amount of confusion, and the people suffer and murmur against reforms that deprive them of the small measure of justice that they could obtain previously. An examination has been instituted for employés under the new system, but appointments are still made by favouritism. A room in the konak has been made to resemble something like a European Court of Law, and a Procureur Impérial has been appointed; beyond these I am unable to learn any improvement in the forms of justice. As there are no barristers or lawyers, there is no one to reply to the Procureur Impérial's pleading, and the prisoner has to be judged undefended, and has, therefore, much less chance of acquittal than he had formerly.

Bribery still continues, and, it is said, the new Commissioner leans himself to such practices, which have been rather increasing lately.

The Inspector of Justice has not yet made any inspection in the Courts of the different sandjaks and Kaïmakamliks, which are still as corrupt as formerly.

The tax on petitions before a case can be entered into at all is very trying for the people, and results in many robbers escaping entirely, as a poor peasant is often unable to pay the preliminary fees.

The general opinion amongst the peasants is that the robbers are bad, but that the law of the Government is ten times the greater robber.

Police.—The police of the vilayet are in a very disorganized state owing to the low and uncertain pay; only the worst characters become zaptiehs; they are perfectly untrustworthy, and only obey orders by force, or if it suits them.

They receive money to allow prisoners to escape, and the peasants complain bitterly that if they capture a robber and hand him over to the police, he has no difficulty in arranging terms for his release, and they have to suffer from the vengeance of the brigand.

A Colonel commands at head-quarters, and a Major is generally in charge at Mutessarifliks. Most of the zaptiehs have now received a uniform, but their arms are generally of a very antique description; some, however, have Winchester carbines, and it would not be difficult, if properly officered and paid, to make them into a good gendarmerie.

Police of the Vilayet.

	Cavalry.			Infantry.		
	Numbers.	Pay.	Total.	Numbers.	Pay.	Total.
		Piastres.	Piastres.		Piastres.	Piastres.
Colonel	1	2,000	2,000	..	..	..
Secretary	1	695	695	..	..	..
Majors	2	740	1,480	..	..	..
Accountant	..	..	..	2	370	740
Captains	3	370	1,110	4	370	1,480
Lieutenants	3	275	825	4	230	920
Sergeants	15	110	1,650	25	98	2,450
Corporals	30	100	3,000	49	89	4,360
Zaptiehs	230	98	22,540	381	79	30,099
Clerks	3	135	405	4	135	540
Total	288	..	33,705	469	..	40,589

			Piastres.
Total force—		Total cost per month—	
Cavalry	288	Cavalry	33,705
Infantry	469	Infantry	40,589
Total	757		74,294
		Per year	891,528

This sum does not include rations; the Colonel receives 500 piastres in lieu of rations a-month and forage, the Majors 300 piastres and forage, the remainder receive rations and forage.

The distribution is—4 sandjaks, 17 Kaïmakamliks, 8 guards, 43 derwents or guard-houses, on the roads generally placed in dangerous passes, and occupied by 2 zaptiehs.

Brigandage.—Brigands still continue to infest the mountain districts, where they are rarely sought except after some special raid. There is a gang in the Ulgaz Mountains and in the Sinope Range; but lately they have been quite quiet owing to a celebrated brigand (Kabakjioglu) and his gang having been lately captured by the energy of the Colonel of the Gendarmerie here. This party is now in prison here awaiting their sentence. Another brigand (Sara Mehmet), who had also committed several murders, is being tried. These captures have for the moment greatly lessened the dangers of travelling in the vilayet.

The principal robbers are the Circassians. About Dugzteh horse and cattle robberies are very common; round Sinope and Bartan; in fact, wherever Circassians are settled.

Lately the Circassians of Duzteh have been quieter, owing to the effect of the Ada-Bazar Circassian robberies having called for an inquiry. When at Duzteh I met several Beys, who were more or less known to me during my stay at Ada-Bazar. I impressed upon them that if the existing state of affairs in the district continued that severe measures would be taken, and they promised to use their influence, which is very great, to suppress the highway robberies; they seem to have kept their word. The measure taken by the Kaïmakam of Ada-Bazar, making villages responsible for robberies committed in their neighbourhood, has had a good effect. The Sinope and Bartan robberies are not accompanied with the same violence as characterized the Ada-Bazar and Duzteh outrages; this is owing to the small numbers of the Circassians in those districts.

Distant raids are very common; many days' journey are taken, and a rendezvous appointed, then some merchants are robbed in a place generally considered safe, and no traces of the brigands are found, as they are well on their way into another vilayet before the authorities start to search for them. The rapidity with which information travels amongst the Circassians is surprising.

Finance.—Revenue of the Vilayet of Kastamuni, from local reports, dated 9th June, 1879:—

	Piastres.
General revenue	42,068,717
Deduction of ⅛ for cairé	8,583,747
General expenses of administration	15,459,014
	23,991,757

Debts of the vilayet at Constantinople:—

	Piastres.
Nizamé	910,706
Tophané	3,380,000
Marine	2,020,105
Telegraphs	1,004,600
Mines	253,500
Havilars—	
Société-Général	2,000,000
Zarifi	3,000,000
Crédit Ottoman	8,000,000
Mavrogeridito	300,000
	20,877,911

Result.

	Piastres.
Expenses	23,991,757
Debts	20,877,911
	44,869,668
Revenue	42,668,717
Deficit	2,200,951

Since the above, another Havilar has been received for 2,000,000 piastres, making a total deficit of 4,200,951 piastres. It is extremely probable that, if examined carefully, the deficit would be found to be much greater; the sum spent on refugees does not appear to be included.

The revenue for 1878 amounted to 43,167,827 piastres, and was distributed in the following manner:—

	Piastres.	Piastres.
Kastamuni Sandjak—		
Income tax on gains	6,433,049	
Christian exemption from military service	90,279	
On sales of horses and cattle and fruit and public scales ..	314,236	
Tithes	198,600	
Sheep	2,075,874	
Sundry (cwiak, mines, forests, stamps)	5,662,198	
		14,774,488
Changora Sandjak—		
Income tax	2,302,884	
Christian exemption	18,569	
On sales	95,875	
Sheep	1,551,414	
Sundry	3,762,646	
		7,619,388
Boli Sandjak—		
Income tax (vergi)	5,971,378	
Christian exemption (bedalat)	52,170	
Sales (rusumat)	2,571	
Tithes	1,121,204	
Sheep (arman rusumy)	1,344,774	
Tobacco	110,000	
Sundries	5,613,894	
		13,616,007
Sinope Sandjak—		
Income tax	1,967,745	
Christian exemption	86,201	
Sales	13,100	
Tithes	556,510	
Sheep	353,496	
Sundries	4,181,800	
		7,167,944
Total		43,167,827

The sheep tax does not agree with the same derived from a different source, but in Turkish accounts accuracy is not considered of importance.

The revenue does not include the custom-house receipts or telegraph receipts, which are sent direct to Constantinople after the employés have deducted their salaries. These employés are, therefore, in a very much better position than the others in the vilayet, as they receive their pay regularly. I have been informed that this arrangement is about to be altered.

Tithes.—For the last three years the administration of the tithes has been changed, and the old system of farming large areas to capitalists has been aban-

doned. During the war all the tithes were taken in kind for the use of the army This year orders were received to farm the tithes in small quantities by cazas, and to sell them to residents as much as possible. These orders were received late, and the Local Government could not find buyers. The time passed, and at last the Government was obliged to take much of the tithes in kind, but owing to the delay a great deal of grain was damaged by wet, and had disappeared, so that the Public Treasury sustained a considerable loss.

The following districts were sold:—

	£ T.
Changora*	21,500
Tosia	5,000
Tashkupru	500

Iskelib sold, but price not yet known; Sinope district was sent to the army. The total number of kilehs received in kind was about 600,000 (the kileh is worth about 12½ piastres), giving a total value received of 7,500,000 piastres.

An Inspector of Tithes has been appointed to the vilayet, and the result of his experience, and those of others similarly appointed for other vilayets, have been sent to the Minister of Finance at Constantinople, and some decision on the future regulations for the tithes is expected shortly.

The people would be very glad to have the total of their liabilities known, and have power to divide it amongst themselves without interference of Government. This might be done by taking the average of tithes for recent years, and making the Mukhtars of villages responsible for the distribution fairly amongst the people after three years. The Inspectors might make a fresh distribution; the Mukhtar might receive a small percentage for the collection of the tax, which would then be at once paid into the Treasury.

The present system allows of grave peculation, which occurs on a large scale amongst the employés. It is said 37,000 piastres were expended this year to get in h tithes of this sandjak alone.

The drought of this year has not greatly affected the produce of this district, the tithes of the Caza of Kastamuni being 59,000 to 60,000 kilehs this year instead of 62,000 kilehs last year. The collection of taxes is very inefficiently carried out, and peculation amongst the officials is general. The employment of officials at low salaries to collect large sums is the reverse of economical.

The Defter Khakane, or registration of lands, is very complete, but is very trying on the people; 5 per cent. is charged on every sale of land, and bucksheesh is required in order to get the registration completed in any fair time. The Defter Khakane also sells Crown lands and receives the money. The revenue from this source does not go to the Finance Minister at Constantinople, but to the head of the Defter Khakane at Constantinople. It is eventually employed, I am informed, to pension high officials out of employment and in the Palace.

Evkaf.—Much landed property and houses are vakouf, legacies left by rich individuals for religious and useful purposes.

These properties are held at very small rentals, and very often without any rent being paid or the testators' wishes being carried out.

Officials and Notables have most of the vakouf lands in their hands, and any one investigating their rights of tenure or the reason that they do not conform with the terms of the testators will become at once the enemy of the chiefs of the community.

There is a khan in the town which has a revenue of £ T. 200 to £ T. 250. This was left for the purpose of keeping up a public soup-kitchen on the Ineboli road. The soup-kitchen does not exist, and the money is appropriated by private individuals.

Another vakouf of £ T. 70 a-year is held by the President of the Commercial Court to keep up the bridge at Tashkupru; very little is spent on the bridge. A Turk here some time ago declared openly that some vakouf lands were improperly held. He was rich and influential, but the Notables, seeing their perquisites threatened, soon got an individual to claim an old debt that never existed, but as the case was tried before them the Turk lost. Another claimed his house, an received half his garden. At last, after losing half his fortune, the Turk ha' implore for mercy and promise not to interfere again.

* A quantity also taken in kind.

Another case was a too conscientious and inquisitive official, who touched the matters of the vakouf. He was followed everywhere by boys shouting opprobrious remarks. On complaining to the Governor he was politely informed that it was an evident outburst of public opinion, and that public opinion was generally right. He was obliged to leave.

I merely state these cases to show that it is very difficult, if not impossible, for any Turk to reform the administration of vakouf lands.

If properly directed, the vakouf would yield sufficient funds to carry out an extensive system of education, and also to keep up many useful public works now decayed and ruined.

Hevalehs.—The present system of the Finance Minister at Constantinople giving hevalehs on the taxes of the provinces, very often when the deficit in the revenue is already large, is very detrimental to the financial administration and proper government of the vilayet.

Agents are employed by the holders of hevalehs to look after their interests in the vilayet. These agents bribe officials to let them know when any money is paid into the Treasury; they then force the Vali to give it them. If he does not, they complain at Constantinople, and the Vali is probably either severely reprimanded or dismissed. It is generally a scramble amongst these agents for any available funds.

The result is that the salaries of officials and the pay of the police have to remain unpaid, and they have to make arrangements either by cheating the Government or robbing the people in order to live. Until the Government pays its employés regularly it cannot expect to be honestly served. The absolute want of ready money is felt as much in the provinces as in the capital.

The Vali knows that all would be against him at Constantinople if he refused to pay the hevalehs. He therefore squeezes the officials and the people, and is thus continually tiding over a financial bankruptcy. The revenue is capable of a very large increase under a proper financial administration, but as reforms in this Department must touch the interest in peculation of many individuals, and as no reward is ever given to energetic officials, it is generally found easier to leave the matter alone.

Agricultural Banks.—These banks were commenced about ten years ago. The funds for starting them were obtained by a special income tax on townsmen, and a cows tax for peasants during two years. The banks charge 12 per cent. for loans on security (other than land), or on bills properly backed by substantial people. The money is not lent to Government officials or to strangers.

The change from paper money (caimé) to currency ruined these banks. The cashiers are supposed to have made a good thing out of it by changing their caimé against currency in the bank, so that when examined nothing but paper was found in chests. Each bank has one cashier, one secretary, and a Council of members.

The banks, with their capitals, are as follows:—

	Piastres.
Kastamuni Sandjak—	
Kastamuni	204,000
Ineboli	101,121
Tashkupru	218,949
Zafranboli	104,200
Dadai	38,297
Iskelib	89,200
Araboh	167,600
Gideh	270,134
Tosia	74,042
Total	1,618,543
Sinope Sandjak—	
Sinope	70,716
Boyavad	73,912
Istephan	196,000
Gerze	30,000
Total	370,628
Changora Sandjak—	
Changora	165,151
Kalajik	210,758
Cherkesh	204,252
Total	580,161

Boli Sandjak—								726,400
Boli ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	106,220
Heraclea ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	157,448
Duzieh ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	101,867
Gonek ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	48,167
Mudurneh	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	200,000
Keredeh ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	272,803
Bartan ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
	Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,699,926
	Total capital in vilayet	..	..	..	..			4,269,259

The sheep tax, at the rate of 3 piastres per head on sheep and common goats, and 4 piastres on (Tiftik) Angora goats, amounted in the last few years to—

	Piastres.
1876	4,248,818
1877	4,951,445
1878	5,199,540
1879	4,828,763

The falling-off this year is due to the low price of Angora goats' wool, which has caused many proprietors to kill their goats.

Public Works.—No public works are being at present carried out in the vilayet, and there is no engineer attached to the Government staff, or any one capable of directing the smallest improvement.

The roads are in a disgraceful state of disrepair, and where very small sums expended on bridges and repairs would save miles of distance nothing is done; the apathy of the people in this respect is remarkable. The road to Ineboli is the best in the vilayet, but owing to the disrepair of small bridges it is almost impassable for carts.

Some ten years ago two good roads were laid out leading from Kastamuni to Changora, and from Boyavad to Sinope large sums were expended upon these undertakings, but they were subsequently abandoned in such a state as to be utterly useless, the worst parts having been left untouched. A comparatively small sum of money would complete these works sufficiently to allow of wheel traffic, which would greatly reduce the present exorbitant charges for transport. The defect in the laying out of these roads has been too great care not to have steep inclines, thus making the road too long.

The improvement of the ports of Bartan and Heraclea, and their communication with the interior, are of great importance.

The telegraphs and public buildings are in a wretched state of disrepair; £ T. 1,200 have been allowed by the Minister of Public Works for public works in this vilayet. This small sum will probably disappear, as many others have done, without any result.

The refugees from European Turkey and Sukhum-Kaleh gave the Government an opportunity of cheaply performing public works, and some result would have been obtained for the large sums expended on sustaining these refugees. All that was wanted was that the inspectors of refugees should be engineers, and that tools should be procured, but want of energy placed difficulties in the way of carrying out this scheme.

Education.—The people desire education. I believe that the energetic example set by the Armenian population has done much to open the eyes of the Turkish people to this great want. Religious fanatics are naturally against all education as they are in every country.

There are no schools in the vilayet worthy of the name except the few Christian schools which each small colony of Christians has opened for themselves.

The Moslem schools are only able to teach verses from the Koran by heart, the proper prayers, and very exceptionally how to read and write.

There is a large religious college at Kastamuni containing about 400 teachers and scholars; there are eighteen degrees. This college supplies the vilayet with Hodjas, and propagates fanaticism amongst the people.

Intelligent Turks see the great want of education amongst the people, and strongly desire that something for the advancement of the masses in this direction may not be left out of the proposed reforms.

Military Service.—The result of the late war has been felt very severely in this province. During that period the recruiting was carried on with great severity. All the redifs (militia) and all the mustafiz (landwehr) were taken. When these latter were called out here there was almost a mutiny; the prompt action of the Vali in sending them off under escort in small lots preserved order. Very few of these have returned, and it is hopeless now to expect them. Being old men they were naturally the first to succumb, and being the last sent and least useful portion of the army they were less cared for.

The redif battalions have now almost all returned. They number from 350 to 500. After depositing their arms and giving up their uniform they are turned adrift without money or clothes.

The Governor-General informed me that 80,000 men had gone to the war, of whom only one-quarter could be expected to return.

There are eleven bans of redifs in the vilayet, each ban being formed of three battalions: Seuf, Mukadem, Salis. These battalions went to the war in some cases 1,200 strong; in peace they are from 750 to 850 strong. Taking 1,100 as the average strength this makes—

Redifs	36,300
Mustafiz	9,000
Volunteers	3,000
Recruits	4,000
Total	52,300

The battalions have returned on an average 450 strong, and up to the present very few mustafiz or volunteers have returned.

Redifs returned	14,850
Mustafiz and volunteers	1,000
Total	15,850

The recruits will probably return later, when their term of service has expired.

The only regular soldiers maintained under arms in the vilayet are 150 artillery, under the command of a Major, stationed in the forts at Sinope.

Recruiting.—The military division of the country not being the same as the division into vilayets and sandjaks, officials are sent from districts outside the vilayet to inspect the recruiting.

The Kastamuni district has centres for recruiting at Kastamuni, Zaframboli, Boli, and Kotch-Hissar. At each of these stations there is a Major with a staff of six or eight Lieutenants, all officers of the redif, who have to keep the recruiting papers in order and see that the registers kept by the Mukhtars of vilayets of the age of young men are correct. When the drawing takes place a special inspector is sent by the Seraskiat. He travels round the district and examines cases of exemption, and sees that no irregularities take place at the drawing. The number to be taken is decided on by this officer from the total registered. A large number are then exempted by him, and the number is taken from those that remain. This year 1 in 6 have been taken from those on the register, but owing to the number of exemptions at Tosia 24 were taken out of 39 in my presence, and about the same proportion in other districts. The exemptions are for the sole prop of a house, for illness, and in case a father has two sons to be taken and none left, he may choose which he will keep after the drawing has decided they are both to be soldiers.

The age is from 20 to 25 years, and the service is 5 years regular army, 7 years militia, 8 years landwehr, total, 20 years' service. In case a man escapes until he is 25 years old and is then taken he has to serve the full term until he is 45 years old.

Much complaint is caused by the manner in which the inspectors sent by the Seraskiat carry out their duties of exempting from military service. They receive bribes and harass the people in every possible manner.

The drawing takes place before the Kaimakam and Medjliss, and is generally fairly conducted, though very often blank papers are missing from the bag, and find their way mysteriously into the hands of favoured candidates.

The young men are generally tall, fine fellows, and would make excellent soldiers. After drawing, they return to their native villages, and are not called out for some years. About 2,000 are taken each year from the vilayet; this number

varies according to what is required by the Sernskiat refugees. These refugees have been a considerable expense and a great trouble to the Government. They are either Roumeliotes or Circassians from Sukhum-Kaleh. Many have passed through this vilayet into the interior. The organization has been so bad that they frequently are sent to wrong ports, and have to wait until an opportunity occurs for transshipment. The Roumeliotes desire to return to their country; contrary orders are continually being received; thus, at the beginning of November, there was an order to let them return to Roumelia; shortly after, an order arrived not to let them go; thus these poor people are kept continually on the tramp, with their baggage and children. Many have died of the hardships they have had to undergo. The inhabitants here are quite tired of having them quartered upon them. There are 387 in the town of Kastamuni; they have introduced eight carts without springs, which they drive to and from Ineboli. Details:—

Number arrived from Constantinople and Trebizond	28,722
Number died or sent back, or passed on to other vilayets	10,191
Total remaining	18,531

Piastres.

The expenses from the first up to the end of 1878, which includes transport, rations, and the heavy expenses of a special Envoy from Constantinople and his secretary, who did absolutely nothing	10,350,000
Expenses since up to the 28th November, 1879	716,179
Estimated expenses up to 1st February, 1880	391,770
Total	11,457,949

I am informed that 9,000 more refugees are expected from Bulgaria and Servia before long.

The Circassian refugees are settled about Boli, Bartan, and Sinope, where houses are being built for them. At Bartan 150 houses have been built, at Erenoyah 30, and at Boli about 100. There are also 300 Circassians at Cherkesh. The Circassians have a strong tendency to keep together, and the Government has not shown any energy in distributing them over the country; wherever they congregate robberies commence, and though, individually, they are not bad people, collectively, they make it difficult for any one to live in their neighbourhood.

The 300 Circassians at Cherkesh applied to me to exert my influence to obtain for them the permission to remove to Bartan, but as they were not able to produce any testimony that they were not robbers, I did not consider it advisable to accede to their wishes. I hear they have since received the required permission from Constantinople.

Population.—The population of the vilayet is composed of Turks, Circassians, Greeks, Armenians, and Gipsies. The Turkish population form the great mass of the people. They may be divided into two classes—the country people, or peasants, and the townsmen.

The country people are almost entirely agriculturists or shepherds. They are poor, honest, and submit easily to the laws; they are extremely hospitable, in the poorest villages there is always a house for the reception of any guests, and while they stay the village feeds them; they are not very industrious, as long as they have bread to eat they are satisfied. With kind treatment and consideration they can be got to do anything. They look up to the few large landowners, who protect them in the Courts of their caza. These Beys, generally descendants of ancient families, are an excellent class—straightforward, clear-sighted men, who only require education to become a considerable power in the land. The peasants are oppressed by the police, robbed right and left by officials, and have no justice given them without paying dear for it; but still they are religious, and devoted to their Khalif; they do not, however, extend this feeling to his Ministers, and they openly express the hope that England will cause their present wretched condition to be ameliorated. The late rumoured Russian alliance has been received here with great disgust; the Beys declare that it is due to the fact that despotic rule at Constantinople is more in accord with the Russian Government than with that of England.

The townsmen are more fanatical and less liberal than the peasants, being under the influence of religious Chiefs; hearing inflammatory sermons in the mosques, they are more excitable, and if urged on by their Chiefs, might cause a disturbance. They look down upon the country people, who, to a certain extent, look up to them as being more enlightened.

The Circassians are also two classes—the last refugees, and the old refugees of 1854. The former come principally from Sukhum-Kaleh, the Roumeliote Circassians being mostly settled around Ada-Bazar. The Sukhum-Kaleh Circassians are poor, wretched people, who commit small thefts; there are many Christians amongst them; they are all under Beys, who rule and direct them in everything; some of their women and children have been stolen by the Roumeliote Circassians. Their religion is vague and uncertain, sometimes they say they are Christians, sometimes Moslems. The Roumeliote Circassians are bolder and have more money, they are generally well mounted, and, under the direction of their Beys, they commit large highway robberies and cattle-lifting, they bribe officials at Constantinople with Circassian girls, and every powerful Bey has generally some relation in a high official's harem. They are generally more intelligent than the Turks, and keep well together in spite of the feeble efforts of the Government to separate them. The forests between Duztche and Ada-Bazar have become a small Circassia.

A strong hand and severe application of the law is necessary to keep these people in order, and they are quite sufficiently intelligent to give up their lawless practices immediately they find it does not pay.

Greeks and Armenians are in small numbers in this vilayet, being distributed in the larger towns, where they have nearly the whole of the petty commerce in their hands; they live well together, and are generally on good terms with the Turkish population.

As a rule they conform entirely to Turkish manners and customs, and only speak Turkish.

They have perfect religious freedom, and are recognized by the authorities; they are generally well represented on the different Medjlisses.

They complain of being despised and being called insulting terms, such as "Giaour," and that their testimony against a Moslem is not taken before the Courts of Law.

Gipsies.—These wandering tribes are partially of Armenian Christians, partially Mussulmans; they are supposed to be of a different race to the Armenians. They move about the country in regular tracks, but will not settle anywhere; they live in tents, pasture flocks, and some of them are iron-workers and general tinkers. They are not given to thieving.

The male population is approximately—

Turks	387,126
Circassians .. .. About ..	20,000
Greeks	5,729
Armenians	2,316
Refugees	18,000
Gipsies, Moslem	1,267
,, Christians	403
Total males	434,846
Taking 3½ women and children for each	1,521,950
Grand total	1,956,793

There are—

Turkish houses	117,709
Greek ,, ...	1,551
Armenian ,, ...	887
Total	120,147

This is perhaps a low estimate of the houses and a rather high one of the total population.

Remarks.

Reforms.—The present haphazard system of introducing reforms, by officials who know nothing of the subject they are sent to reform, is absolutely detrimental, and is causing considerable disappointment amongst the people.

The reforms in the Finance, Police, Prisons, Education, and Public Works Departments have not yet commenced, and I have been frequently told that, if they are to be of the same description as those in the Courts of Justice, the people would be much better without them.

The principal fault of the confusion in the Department of Justice is due to

the Special Commissioner, Assim Pasha, appointed by the Porte to reform the Law Courts of the vilayet. This official is quite incapable of carrying out his functions; having been trained in finance, he knows nothing of law, he has never visited any of the Courts of the different Mutessarifliks, and has set a bad example while he has been resident here.

The great desire of the people is to see the Turkish Parliament reassembled at Constantinople—they have great confidence in its capabilities to check bad Ministers—and to see that reforms were properly introduced into the administration of the provinces.

The system of centralization of all Departments in the capital is very detrimental to the proper government of the vilayet; each official under the Vali is also under some Minister at Constantinople, to whom he appeals from the Vali's orders, which are therefore rarely executed. All nominations to Mutessarifliks, Kaïmakamliks, &c., come from Constantinople, which opens the door to immense favouritism in the capital, and to incapable men being appointed by those who have no particular interest in the welfare of the vilayet. There is no order of promotion for officials who have served with distinction, and unless they have some powerful friend at Constantinople, there is no chance of advancement. If some order was put into the promotion of Government officials it would have a very beneficial effect.

The revenue is capable of being vastly increased by the proper collection of taxes, and by a system of checks, and severe punishment in cases of peculation.

The law at present does not allow of a man's land being sold for payment of taxes, which is highly calculated to increase the difficulties of collection.

By opening up the country to trade and commerce, by a proper administration of the vast forests and mineral wealth of the province, large sums might be realized to the Treasury.

The pay of officials is too low and uncertain, being generally in arrears (it is now three months in arrear). Many are quite unable to live on their pay in a style which their rank requires, and being trusted with considerable sums and much power, they are obliged to abuse their position in order to live.

The late reduction of 10 per cent. on salaries has severely told on the poorer employés of the Government.

The pay of the police and their officers is low and uncertain, their duties are therefore ill-performed, and only the worst characters can be got to join. It is not to be expected that a man will risk his life in an encounter with brigands when he has not been paid for several months, and has only to take the money offered him by his foes, and declare that he could not find them.

The power of local Medjlisses over Governors, by sending mazbatas, or petitions, against them, leading generally to their being dismissed, is bad, as no Governor dare to act on his own responsibility, but only in accordance with the views of his Medjliss, who are generally most corrupt. An instance of the power of Medjlisses occurred here lately. A man was murdered at Devriken by a rich and powerful landowner; the affair was hushed up, and nothing was known of it here for two months, though the place is only six hours off; it then leaked out, and an official inquiry took place. It was then shown that the Governor of Devriken was afraid to report the matter, as the two previous Governors had been removed for offending the murderer, who had great power with the Medjliss. It appears that he did not receive any money.

A few extra clerks have been appointed in the different Kaïmakamliks where they were not wanted and have nothing to do, and the Medjlisses are being slowly remodelled on the new system. Some powers have been taken out of the hands of the Kaïmakams, and a representative of the Procureur Impérial has been sent to a few of the Provincial Courts. These are the only reforms that are being carried out, and they do not seem likely to improve the condition of the people, which requires more radical changes. The general opinion stated by the officials is that reforms would be easy enough, but that they must be commenced at Constantinople; unless the whole system of bribery and peculation is changed from the top downwards, it will never begin at the bottom.

The reassemblage of the Turkish Parliament would, it is thought, have a good effect in this direction.

Honest and capable officials are much required in the Finance Department, with powers sufficient to be able to act energetically in doing away with the present abuses.

Officials often declare that the want of money is the cause that the reforms do not take place, but this simply amounts to a wish to repeat the case of former years, when large sums were available, and much useless expenditure was incurred without the preliminary foundation of a good honest Government.

Opinions are considerably divided upon the advisability of reforms: those that are against them are generally fanatical Mussulmans who have some interests that would be injured by exposure. They object to all foreign influence, and wrap themselves up in intolerable pride of race and religion.

Those who desire reforms see that the present state of the Government cannot last long, and have a very strong impression that their time is short. Many, believing this, are making the most of the time that remains to them, but the low, unpaid salaries, and the constant reductions, cause them to murmur loudly, and state cases of misgovernment more or less true.

The frequent change of the Governor-General is very detrimental to the advancement of any reforms. This year his Excellency Said Pasha, his Excellency Arif Pasha, his Excellency Ghalib Pasha, have alternately been Governors-General of this vilayet. Naturally none of these officials have had the time to learn where the Administration is in fault, and what steps are necessary to introduce salutary reforms.

(Signed) H. H. KITCHENER, *Lieutenant, R.E.*,
Vice-Consul at Kastamuni.

Kastamuni, December 17, 1879.

No. 101.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 249.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Colonel Miles on the subject of the distress prevailing in the neighbourhood of Mosul.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 101.

Lieutenant-Colonel Miles to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Mosul, January* 19, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to attach, for your Excellency's information, post copy of a telegram which I had the honour to address to your Excellency this day respecting the straits to which the poorer portion of the population of this town and neighbourhood have been reduced by famine, and the unusually severe cold we are experiencing this winter. From various causes, but principally the extreme drought last year and consequent failure of the crops, prices have been gradually rising for months past until the present moment, when wheat and barley, the staple food of the people, stand at twelve and sixteen times their ordinary rate respectively. It is indeed no longer possible to conceal the real seriousness of the position. There is unquestionably much distress, and extensive relief measures are imperatively required on the part of the Governor if the poor are to be saved from actual starvation.

When I left Baghdad I expected to leave scarcity and distress behind me, and to find, as I was informed I should, prices getting lower as I advanced northwards. But I found on the contrary that each stage was dearer than the last, and that in Mosul itself the distress was greater than in any other place I could learn of.

The difficulty is increased to some extent by the labour market being overstocked, and by workmen not being able to obtain employment. The weavers who comprise the larger portion of the poor are great sufferers, as the extreme dearness is causing all classes to economize, and they are unable to dispose of their productions. There is a constant and increasing influx too of starving people, Kurds, Arabs, and Nestorians from the mountains and neighbouring villages, who have absolutely no means of subsistence.

The winter this year has been an unusually severe one, and both Northern Mesopotamia and Kurdistan have been visited with heavy falls of rain and snow. This has of course much intensified the misery of the poor, and has, moreover, caused the loss of a large number of cattle and sheep.

To the interests of the agriculturists, the rain we have had has been most beneficial, and a tolerably good harvest is confidently looked forward to in the spring. For although many fields have been left unsown by the farmers from their inability to procure sufficient seed, they have been more careful in sowing regularly what they had, instead of scattering it broadcast, as they usually do.

Notwithstanding the deplorable state of affairs in this vilayet the Local Government are only just beginning to awake from their usual apathetic indifference, and to discuss measures, having for their object the amelioration of the condition of the poor and destitute. Shortly before I arrived here some police had been sent out into the neighbourhood to search for and bring to light all the stores of grain that might be concealed. This was done effectually and unrelentingly as regards the Christian villages, the hoards discovered in which were brought to Mosul and thrown into the market, but the search in the Moslem hamlets is said to have been entirely perfunctory, and they were left practically unmolested. The Christian and Jew grain dealers in the town of Mosul, probably through fear of consequences, sold off their stores long ago, retaining only a little for their own consumption, and the only holders now are a few rich Moslems, who are too influential to be interfered with by the local authorities, and are able to retain their granaries untouched. It is currently believed here, and the report is probably not altogether without foundation, that these men have in concealment sufficient supply for the whole population for many months.

Two months ago a caravan of 1,000 camels left Diarbekir with wheat for Mosul. It was a long time on the way owing to bad roads, but it arrived at length within a few hours of Mosul, and for the last twelve days there it has remained. Two hundred camel loads were brought in and disposed of, but of the rest no one has heard and no one seems to know what has become of it. The caravan belonged to Moslems and the belief is prevalent that the grain has been brought in secretly and stored up.

Within the last week the Mutessarif has received strict injunctions by telegraph from Constantinople to call upon certain rich Moslems who were specified by name, viz., Suleiman Bey, Abdulla Bey, Emus Bey, Mahmoud Agha, and Hassan Serraf, to give an account of the grain held by them, and to send what they had into the market. He did so, and obtained from each a written declaration that he had no wheat or barley whatever in his possession beyond what he required for his own household. One man only, Abdulla Bey, confessed to having a small surplus store. Yesterday the Mutessarif had posted up a notification at the Serai, that any grain store found in possession of any person after twenty-one days from this date will be confiscated to Government.

The Mutessarif informs me that he intends to call together a Committee to consider what measures can be adopted towards organizing relief operations, and to ascertain the precise state of affairs. I hear also that he is in telegraphic communication with the Vali of Kerkook on this subject.

The religious heads of the Moslem and various Christian communities are making some slight effort to relieve their own poor, but not much benefit can be expected from them. The poverty-stricken part of the population is too large, and the condition of affairs altogether too serious to be left to their spasmodic attempts and indifferent arrangements, and operations on a broader scale are necessary.

I have heard several well-authenticated instances of death from starvation among the Moslem population inside and outside the town, and both Christians and Moslems have for some days past been selling their children to obtain a few piastres for subsistence, while others have abandoned their infants at the doors of mosques and houses.

Dissatisfaction has been expressed here that the export of grain from Diarbekir, where it is said to be much cheaper than at Mosul, has been prohibited or at least hindered, and it is remarked that the Turkish authorities might easily have obtained sufficient wheat from that town and from Orfah to enable them to assist the people until the spring crops were harvested. I have not heard, however, that any such arrangement was in contemplation by the Local Government.

In the presence of so much distress, I have thought that the distribution of a little relief through Her Majesty's Vice-Consul here to the destitute of all denominations would have the effect, besides alleviating suffering, of affording a salutary example. I am quite sure it is needed, and that it would be efficiently carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) S. MILES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 101.

Lieutenant-Colonel Miles to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Mosul, January* 19, 1880.

DISTRESS among poor in Mosul and vicinity now reaches crisis, and extensive relief measures have become urgently requisite. Misery, caused by scarcity of food, aggravated by severity of winter. Wheat 36 piastres; wazna twelve times ordinary price; barley in proportion. People flocking in from neighbouring villages increasing the gravity of situation. Several deaths have occurred, and children are being sold and abandoned. No effective steps yet taken by Local Government to afford relief by distribution of food or money. Heads of communities doing a little to assist poor, but their efforts inadequate. Belief current that grain exists in Mosul for several months' supply, but concealed. Small caravan arrived from Diarbekir, but it has not all been thrown into market, and much more is required. Any assistance would be very acceptable, and would be effectively distributed.

No. 102.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 260.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March* 1, 1880.

I RECEIVED a telegram to-day from Mr. Richards, who is acting as Vice-Consul at Sivas in the absence of Colonel Wilson, informing me that Abeddin Pasha has been transferred to the Vilayet of Salonica. I much regret to learn that the Porte has thought it necessary to make this change. Abeddin Pasha, as your Lordship will have learnt from Colonel Wilson's reports, was doing much good, and was honestly and energetically performing his duties as Governor-General of a very important district. It is true that a man of his independence and activity is most urgently required in Macedonia, where the state of affairs is most unsatisfactory, and where grave events may be expected to occur very shortly unless the Porte takes effective measures to put an end to the anarchy and misgovernment which at present prevail. I have been constantly representing to Sawas Pasha, when communicating to him the substance of Mr. Consul-General Blunt's reports as to the condition of the province, the utter incapacity of the present Vali to administer his district. Abeddin Pasha may be the best man to take his place, as he is of Albanian origin, and thoroughly acquainted with the country and its populations. But still it is very unfortunate that he has not been allowed to remain at Sivas, and to carry out the policy with regard to the Kurds which he had initiated apparently with so much success. By the severe and impartial manner in which he had punished those who had been guilty of crimes and outrages against the Christians he had made himself powerful enemies amongst the Chiefs, some of whom appear to have friends at the Palace, and to have, through them, succeeded in thwarting him and curtailing his authority. By his removal, which they may have obtained, the Porte shows that it has no intention of adhering to its promise of naming and keeping the Valis for five years.

I am bound to state that I have received very favourable reports from the American missionaries and others of Hakki Pasha, Abeddin Pasha's successor. He appears to have given general satisfaction during the time that he was in command in parts of Armenia. I strongly recommended him some time ago to the Porte for employment in Kurdistan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 103.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 266.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, March 2, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Captain Everett respecting the distress prevailing in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, and other matters of interest in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 8. Political.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, February 20, 1880.

I REGRET to say that up to the present date I have been unable to send any wheat down to the districts owing to the impossibility of obtaining transport at any reasonable price. The Armenian Bishop, for similar reasons, has been obliged to give up the idea. I am glad to be able to inform you that £ T. 300 has been forwarded to Bayazid by the Armenian Patriarch, and £ T. 450 has been received by the Bishop here, and are being sent to-day to Alashgerd. Mr. William Chambers, American missionary, has also started for the Passin district with £ T. 57 from their own funds. The distress in Passin arises more from want of money than from dearth of wheat, for the authorities in that district have been given permission to sell 900 Erzeroum somars at 400 piastres (metallic) the somar, yet up to the present time only 55 somars have been sold. Letters from Kars received by the missionaries report great destitution over the frontier, and prices far higher than here. The sufferers, according to these letters, receive no assistance whatever from the Russian authorities.

The distress in Erzeroum is considerable, but a subscription has been set on foot among the inhabitants, and £ T. 70 have been already collected. Up to the present time I have received through his Excellency the British Ambassador 95*l.*, of which I have disbursed £ T. 13 for the relief of some of the poorest families of Kara-Kilissa, who came here imploring assistance.

The cases of Keghi and Baiburt make no progress at all. The day before yesterday I spoke most seriously both to the Vali and to Nafyz Pasha on the necessity of finishing them, and promises have been renewed.

I believe I am on the point of obtaining the protection for the Protestant instructor at Hogloo. (See my despatch of the 30th January.)

I regret to say that in the district of Chanono there is a strong feeling against the Protestants, amounting to intimidation and threats on the part of the Armenian Gregorians, which is not repressed as it should be by the local authorities. At this moment a statement is being framed by the Protestants setting forth their grievances. This is being done at the request of the Vali, and is the result of an interview which I procured for them last week.

Since writing the above Mr. Chambers has returned from the Passin district, bringing back with him a most deplorable account of the state of the villages which he visited. In some of these such destitution exists that the inhabitants are reduced to eating dried roots.

In more than one village the inhabitants are totally destitute, and at Lulukí three men have died from starvation.

The state of things will shortly become still more distressing, as there are very many families whose supplies will be exhausted in a fortnight or three weeks. Generally speaking, he reports the Turkish villages to be in a worse condition than those inhabited by Christians.

A telegram has this moment arrived from his Excellency the Ambassador, informing me that Lady Strangford has placed 100*l.* at my disposal for the suffering population. I propose to use immediately a portion of this sum in relieving some of the distress in the Passin district, but as the mail leaves before I can make any arrangements, I must defer communicating them till next week.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 104.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 12.)

(No. 269.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, March 3, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a letter addressed to me by six Notables of Erzeroum complaining of the interference of Her Majesty's Consulate in a certain land case in the Bedaict Court of that town. I also inclose a copy of a despatch from Captain Everett, to whom I referred this letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Captain Everett to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1.)
Sir,

Erzeroum, February 20, 1880.

WITH reference to your despatch of the 29th January forwarding a letter purporting to come from six Notables of Erzeroum, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that this letter, which I now return, evidently refers to the action which I found it necessary to take on the 23rd December, 1879, in the territorial suit between Mehemet Chaoush and Ismail Bey, both of the district of Keghi.

As I have fully explained the reasons for this action in my despatch No. 1, Political, of the 2nd January, 1880, addressed to Major Trotter, together with its Inclosure No. 21, and as I have nothing to add to what I then stated, and as moreover the history of the Keghi cases is well known to your Excellency, it will not be necessary for me to make any further comments. Of the six seals which are appended to this document four belong to the Beys of Keghi, who, having received sentence of banishment from the Criminal Medjliss, are now appealing against it to the Istinaff; the fifth belongs to a Bey, also of Keghi, who has never had anything to do with any of the cases, and is not in Erzeroum; while the sixth is that of Ismail Bey, the defendant in the above-mentioned suit, or, as the latter puts it, in the one land case in the Bedaict Court of Erzeroum.

I have reason to know that the man referred to in the latter portion of the letter, who seems, in the opinion of the Beys, to be worthy of punishment, is Hussein Effendi, one of the sub-Commissioners left to watch these cases—his earnest endeavours to bring these suits to a conclusion and to prevent any injustice, together with his strict probity, having incensed the Beys greatly against him.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 5th October approving of the steps taken with reference to this case, and proffering further assistance if necessary.

I have again made another very urgent appeal to the authorities to finish these cases, and I have again been promised that they shall be brought to a speedy conclusion.

If nothing is now done, I fear I shall be obliged to have recourse to the *ultima ratio*, and appeal to your Excellency for that assistance which you have kindly offered me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 104.

Letter addressed to Sir A. H. Layard by Six Turkish Notables of Erzeroum.

DURING the late war the Armenians and Kurds of the Keghi Caza of the Erzeroum Vilayet were misled to open many law suits against us, and as result of representations made to the British Embassy, and thence to the Sublime Porte, the affairs were first examined in a Commission, and were then referred to the Courts of Justice, that proceedings might be taken in accordance with the laws. It is well known to what an extent the Kurds and Armenians were incited to these suits; moreover, the inquiries made in the Commission were carried on by a body of Armenians, and it was ascertained that very many of the suits were begun owing to incitements, and that many of them were unjust; but it is not now the time to expatiate on these matters. But there was one land case in the Bedaict Court of Erzeroum which required the revoking of a Decree of the Sherié, and it was therefore necessary to obtain an order from the Sheikh-ul-Islam, and answer was given to us to that effect.

But within twenty-four hours the British Consul at Erzeroum wrote to the Vali, saying that it was not right that such an answer should be given, and that a Court which did that was mistaken and ignorant of the laws. It is necessary that the Consul to do that must have had some strong reason for to know all rules of the Ottoman laws, and especially the truth of the present trial, and to understand in what Court the Decree of the Sherié can be inserted, and to pay attention to these things is most important and necessary. If he do find some injustice in cases of this kind, he is permitted to call the attention of the Court to it; but without making any inspection of the case, and without obtaining proper information, then by the use of his influence he has overturned our rights, and, as it were, entered his protest in the Court. We would not in any way be ungrateful for the justice that England has shown towards us during the last 600 years, and we therefore think that this is a mistake upon the part of the Consul, and we wish to call your Excellency's attention to the matter, and to cause some other course to be taken. But at the same time, we have asked the Government to punish the man who has been the cause of all this, and if any man has used the Consul's influence for any such purpose, we, with our wives and children, will publish the matter to the whole world.

(Seals of 6 Turkish Notables of Erzeroum.)

December 26, 1879.

No. 105.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 10. Political.)

Beyrout, February 26, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. 13, Confidential, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople touching on the cases of Khalil Bey El Assaad and Youssef Agha-el-Memlouk at Sidon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 105.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 13. Confidential.)

Beyrout, February 26, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 8 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that the Commission appointed by Midhat Pasha to inquire into the complaints brought by Mahommed Saïd Emin against Youssef-el-Memlouk

and Khalil-el-Assaad has terminated its labours with the results that might have been foreseen.

Whilst the Commissioners were still pursuing their investigations, his Highness Midhat Pasha returned to Beyrout, and previously to the receipt of, but in accordance with, your Excellency's despatch No. 4 of the 29th ultimo, I caused to be represented to him (not being at the time sufficiently well to wait on him in person) that information I had received led me to believe that the inquiry was not likely to be carried on in a manner satisfactory to justice or conducive to elucidation of facts. At the same time the petition, a copy of which I inclosed in my despatch No. 10, was presented to his Highness, to whom it was pointed out that, so long as the personages against whom complaints were made were allowed to terrorize the inhabitants, and to circulate, without contradiction, reports of a pre-formed decision in the mind of the Vali, being accompanied meanwhile with zaptiehs in Government uniform, no hopes of true evidence being adduced could reasonably be entertained. His Highness replied that the question of such intimidation should be inquired into, but that he had himself personally examined very many witnesses, and found that their cases were for the most part either without foundation, or else based upon personal enmity arising from the superior wealth and position of Khalil and Youssef, which enabled them to outbid others in the tithe-farming adjudications. His Highness contended that in this particular the Ottoman Government had been large gainers, owing to the command of capital of the two before-named persons, who had nearly doubled the sums paid into the Imperial Treasury, and that he, for one, would be the last to check rivalry among tithe-farmers.

While allowing for some truth in these remarks, hopes were expressed that his Highness would press on the inquiry in a spirit of fairness, since private information fully corroborated current tales of oppression and peculation, and it was of the highest importance that such practices should be promptly and energetically put down in the interest even of his Highness, since, if I were compelled to make an unfavourable report to your Excellency, the impression it would create would be very prejudicial to him.

His Highness replied that he had caused placards to be posted throughout the district enjoining all who had cause of complaint against Youssef and Khalil to bring them before the Commissioners, and that he himself would be ready to hear appeals at Beyrout. Having every confidence in his Commissioners, he was of opinion that everything had been done which justice demanded, and the discussion was discontinued till the result of the Commission of Inquiry could be known. The official local paper "Hadikat-el-Akbar" of the 19th instant publishes a paragraph, of which the following is the substance:—

"Emir Selim Bey Schehab and Saïd Effendi Djondi returned yesterday (17th) to Beyrout from Merj-Ayoun and Sidon, where they had been charged with an inquiry into the petition and documents presented by Saïd Mahommed Emin, in the name of the inhabitants. The Commissioners had began by forming a Medjliss of forty-three persons, before whom they summoned Saïd to lay his complaints. He having refused to do so, they proceeded to examine the abuses complained of in the petitions he had presented, and found them to be without foundation."

I have only to add that, from a private source, I learn that the Commissioners threw every obstacle in the way of witnesses for prosecution, giving them very plainly to understand that anything that should prove detrimental to the cause of the defendants would be doubly so to their own interests, and at the close of the inquiry Saïd Emin, the chief plaintiff and personal enemy of Khalil, was escorted under guard to Beyrout. I leave the appreciation of the facts preceding, during and consequent in this inquiry, to your Excellency's own judgment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 106.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 11. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, February* 27, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4 of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a despatch (No. 14), and its inclosure, which I have addressed this day to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, reporting the movements of his Highness Midhat Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 106.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 14.)

Sir, *Beyrout, February* 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that his Highness Midhat Pasha left Beyrout on the 11th instant to preside at the inauguration of the new tramway at Tripoli, and returned on the 16th, staying only two days here before leaving finally for Damascus on the 19th.

I inclose, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Blanche, reporting on the proceedings of the Vali at Tripoli, and confirming the fears I expressed in my despatch No. 2 of the 17th ultimo, that no further action would be taken in the coining case which I had the honour to report to your Excellency at that date.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 106.

Acting Vice-Consul Blanche to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul-Général, *Tripoli, le* 16 *Février*, 1880.

SON Altesse Midhat Pacha est arrivée à Tripoli par le paquebot Russe de Jeudi dernier, 12 courant, pour inaugurer les services du tramway construit sur son invitation active et persévérante. Ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous en informer en temps et lieu, Midhat Pacha, dans sa première visite à Tripoli, il y aura bientôt un an, a fait commencer sous ses yeux les travaux d'une route carrossable de Tripoli à Damas par Homs et Hama; et en même temps, il a stimulé les capitalistes indigènes pour constituer une compagnie au capital de 200,000 fr., à l'effet d'unir la ville à la marine par un tramway de 3½ kilom. de longueur.

Moins de six mois après, le Vali pouvait se donner la satisfaction de revenir à Tripoli par sa route carrossable, en voiture, et en passant par Hama et Homs. Maintenant il est revenu pour la troisième fois, et a fait son entrée en ville sur de splendides wagons Anglais, roulant sur rails de fer, au grand ébahissement de la population accourue en foule. Un arc de triomphe orné de nombreux drapeaux avait été élevé à l'entrée de la future gare remplacée provisoirement par une tente où son Altesse reçut les Conseils et les principaux de la ville. Elle y prononça une courte allocution; on lui lut plusieurs adresses de louanges en vers et en prose, et le petit chemin de fer fut déclaré ouvert au public. Dès le jour même, en effet, les wagons furent envahis par des curieux empressés de se faire rouler pour 20 ou 30 paras entre la ville et la marine. Toutefois, les services sont loin encore d'être réglés. Il n'y a pas encore de Direction organisée; et il est à présumer que ce sera toujours là le gros écueil qui entravera les services, s'ils restent entre les mains des indigènes. De plus, la ligne n'est pas finie. Il en reste encore 800 à 900 mètres pour opérer la jonction avec la route de Homs et rendre possible le transport des marchandises. Ce tronçon est en bonne voie, et se fera d'ici à deux ou trois mois. Mais à l'autre extremité, dans la marine même, il faudra pouvoir prolonger la ligne jusqu'à la douane, autrement le service des marchandises sera toujours précaire et difficile. Et là, il faut des dépenses qui dépasseront peut-être les moyens de notre Compagnie. Quoiqu'il en soit, l'œuvre est achevé en ce qui concerne le transport des passagers; et Midhat Pacha en éprouve une visible et légitime satisfaction. Il a télégraphié à Constantinople pour annoncer l'ouverture du tramway, et il en reçut sur l'heure des félicitations qui l'ont comblé de joie.

Quant aux bénéfices qui en pourront revenir aux actionnaires, ils sont encore dans les nuages de l'avenir. Il est certain que les dépenses auront dépassé de beaucoup les prévisions quand le travail sera fini. Elles ont été considérablement augmentées par les écoles faites dans la direction toujours confuse et indécise des travaux, par le luxe exagéré du matériel. D'un autre côté, les ressources du trafic ne semblent pas en proportion avec cette coûteuse entreprise. Néanmoins Midhat Pasha, qui est personnellement le plus gros actionnaire, est convaincu, par des expériences antérieures, que les bénéfices dépasseront de beaucoup toutes les prévisions. Bien d'autres parmi les actionnaires partagent son opinion; il faut souhaiter pour l'avenir de notre ville que leurs espérances se réaliseront.

Mr. Austin, l'Ingénieur Anglais, qui a fait le premier tracé de ces travaux, a écrit au Vali et à diverses personnes qu'il était parvenu à s'assurer en Angleterre un capital de 100,000*l.* pour faire le chemin de fer de Tripoli à Homs et Hama, et au besoin de 700,000*l.* pour pousser jusqu'à Deir, sur l'Euphrate. Il doit revenir à Tripoli au mois d'Avril prochain. Est-ce le fameux grand chemin de fer des Indes qui doit sortir de là? Midhat Pacha ferait des difficultés pour laisser une Compagnie exclusivement Anglaise entreprendre le grand œuvre. Il la voudrait universelle, ou au moins Franco-Anglaise. Je pense que quand l'entreprise n'aura plus d'autres obstacles à surmonter, elle sera bien près de s'accomplir.

Son Altesse est allée visiter les travaux entrepris pour transformer notre forteresse en prison d'Etat destinée à recevoir le bagne de St. Jean d'Acre, qui serait complétement abandonné. C'est un projet conçu dans son premier voyage à Tripoli et qui est maintenant à la veille d'être exécuté. Notre château a été jugé plus sain pour les prisonniers que les mauvaises prisons d'Acre, et surtout plus sûr pour les garder.

Cette visite au futur bagne, avec l'ouverture des travaux, était le but du voyage de Midhat Pacha à Tripoli. Il est reparti hier au soir avec le paquebot Russe, après un séjour de quatre jours.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) J. BLANCHE.

No. 107.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 12.)

(No. 12. Political.)

My Lord, *Beyrout, February* 27, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 7 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch (No. 15) which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, reporting on the Commission of Inquiry into the cases of bribery at Baalbeck.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 107.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 15.)

Sir, *Beyrout, February* 27, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatches No. 78, Confidential, of the 6th December, and No. 9 of 2nd instant, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I have lately received further particulars bearing on the question of fiscal frauds at Baalbeck. It appears that Mahommed Said Bey, the Commissioner, left for Baalbeck on the 12th February, with orders to continue the inquiry on the spot, and, after collecting evidence, to proceed to Damascus with all implicated persons, including the Judge,

Kaïmakam, and Registrar from Baalbeck, where he would impeach them as Government Prosecutor before the High Court, whose action will be watched in person by Midhat Pasha, who, I have reason to believe, is gone to Damascus chiefly for this purpose.

It has been estimated that if the operations commenced at Baalbeck had been permitted to extend to the rest of the vilayet, an approximate sum of 50,000 Turkish liras would have passed into the hands of the Government employés, one half of which would have been distributed amongst the local authorities and Revenue Commissioners, whilst the other half would have been forwarded to Damascus for division amongst the higher officials there.

The proportion sum which would have to be paid by peasant proprietors would necessarily in greater part have been borrowed either at exorbitant rates of interests, or else by fore-pledging their wheat crops at a ruinous sacrifice. These transactions are arranged by selling the wheat at an usurer's valuation before harvesting or receiving a bond for a certain number of piastres, which supposititiously represent an equivalent in measures of wheat. It need scarcely be said that the prices fixed at the time of the loan and those realized by the lender at the actual sale of the grain are very different, the usual valuation Tariff being from 5 piastres to 7 piastres per "mud," and the selling price at harvest time about 15 piastres. Supposing, therefore, that a man wishes to borrow 200 piastres he has to pledge forty "muds," and the lender selling at 15 piastres recoups himself at 300 per cent., and it is in this manner that many of the peasant farmers have ruined themselves past recovery.

Mr. Rattray, the gentleman mentioned in my despatch No. 2, has received no intimation, either officially or in the course of his conversations with the Commissioner, of any intention to return to him the money paid on his own lands, although arrangements have been made to restore the sums disbursed by him, as agent for Sir Richard Wood's estates, and he is considerably disappointed of this neglect.

Very many of the proprietors have already received back the amounts they had paid, on the understanding that they should not offer evidence against the peculators, and Mr. Rattray fears, from the hostile attitude of the local authorities, that he may ultimately suffer for the public spirit he has shown, and for the conclusive testimony he has been able to bring in spite of all efforts to suppress it.

I shall use my best endeavours to prevent this, and I trust that any action I may take for the protection of Mr. Rattray's interests will meet with the support of your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 108.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 16.)

(No. 4. Political.)

Trebizond, February 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a petition which was handed to me yesterday by three inhabitants of the villages of Djambour and Samarouksa on behalf of their communities.

The object of the petition is to beg me to forward to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, which I do this day, the Memorial inclosed in translation, and in which they show the little security that there is for their lives and property, owing to their appeals within the last four years having remained unheeded by the Local Government, and the malefactors having gradually been encouraged by impunity.

It may be presumed that the time which elapsed between the date of the Memorial and that of its being handed to me was employed in cautiously obtaining signatures.

Izet, of whom mention is made in the said Memorial, died of his wound (a wound inflicted by Boghos) in the Government hospital of this town some days after his apprehension.

I have often had occasion to report to your Lordship, especially in my despatch No. 4, Political, of the 18th January, 1879, on the unsatisfactory condition of affairs in that part of the vilayet to which the Memorial refers, and in its neighbourhood.

I also pointed out in my despatch No. 7, Political, of the 23rd January, 1879, the inadequacy of the police force to keep order in those districts, and took the liberty to

suggest that a certain Midhat Bey, who enjoyed a merited influence in that quarter, and was always employed by the Government in difficult police cases, if appointed to be Kaïmakam, or better police officer, might have put a stop to the existing state of things.

The merit of Midhat Bey seems to have been so far recognized by the Porte that he was appointed Mudir, not, however, at Surmenah but at Charli, a separate district 50 miles distant from the former.

The nomination of Midhat Bey to another post (a post which he relinquished owing to the inadequacy of its salary) could not produce the effect which was in view in recommending him for employment at Surmenah.

The present Governor-General, Sirri Pasha, has done his best to restore tranquillity in that quarter with the means at his disposal, and the only acts of brigandage which have taken place since his appointment to Trebizond, nearly a year ago, are those against Bogos and Kiroglou.

Besides the two individuals mentioned in the Memorial as having been arrested, another has been lately apprehended, and Sirri Pasha informs me that the fourth is expected to be soon arrested.

It would be unfair to throw all the blame of the disorders which are taking place on the police force, which is comparatively small for the extent, and the difficulty of communication from one to another point, especially during the present severe winter.

No hope of complete restoration of tranquillity can be expected before that body is entirely reorganized, well paid, and recruited amongst a better class of men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 108.

The Inhabitants of Djambour and Samarouksa to Consul Biliotti.

Trébizonde, le 1/13 Février, 1880.

M. le Consul,

NOUS Soussignés, sujets Turcs domiciliés dans les villages de Tchambour, du Petit et du Grand Samarouksa, prenons la liberté de vous prier de vouloir bien communiquer la plainte ci-incluse à la respectable Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople.

Veuillez, M. le Consul, agréer, &c.

(Signé) HAROUTUN HOVSÉPIAN.
ZADIK HOVSÉPIAN.
LAZARI VAVOULIADIS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 108.

Memorial from Inhabitants of the Villages of Djambour and Samarouksa.

(Translation.)

WE, undersigned inhabitants of the village of Djambour, in the district of Matchka, and of the villages of Small and Large Samarouksa, in the district of Yomurah, faithful subjects of the Sultan, beg to submit that until four years ago we lived in peace, but since that date have been molested by bands of armed men, who attack us in our own houses.

We applied to the Local Government for protection, but our request having always remained unheeded, the malefactors have gradually been encouraged by impunity in their misdeeds.

Without speaking of cattle-lifting and of destruction of animals which are of daily occurrence, we shall only cite examples of murderous attacks on men.

The brigands in question forcibly entered the house of Kirogloo Sawa, murdered his son Sambo, and only twenty days since returned to the same house, which they completely ransacked, fright causing the death of Sawa himself.

They surrounded the house of the Greek priest Terzioglou, and of a certain Zanioglou Tanni, asking 50*l.* from each of them, and on their refusal to pay they broke into the priest's house and fired a gun, wounding his son Pandeli in the thigh.

They attacked the house of Aidinoglou Tanni, and, being unable to break into it, fired through an aperture on his wife, who had a very narrow escape. They surrounded the house of Tossifoglou Tossif, into which, being likewise unable to enter, they fired a gun, killing the owner on the spot. Quite recently, on the night of the $\frac{19th}{20th}$ December, they broke into the house of Tüssepoglou Boghos, living in the village of Djambour.

He having been lucky enough to turn off the gun aimed at his breast just in time to avoid being struck by the bullet they made use of their cutlasses, wounding him on the right arm, and cutting off two fingers from the left hand of his wife; they finally succeeded to despoil him of 4*l*.

In the struggle one of the attacking parties, Izzet, having been badly wounded, was arrested next day. He said that he did not know several of his companions, but mentioned the names of the following, with whom he was acquainted:—

Karalioglou Ali, of the village of Carlik; Alioglou Suleiman, of the village of Anifa; Ouzli Oglou Ali and Hadjadoor Boghosoglou, both of the village of Mazara. Hitherto only the two last mentioned have been apprehended. As the other malefactors are still at large we have no quiet nor sleep, being obliged to be on continual watch.

We beg, therefore, that measures should be taken for their apprehension and our tranquillity.

11 *Kiamouni-Sani* (*January* 25, 1880).

(Follow: 8 seals of the Mussulman, Armenian, and Greek communities, and 52 seals of leading Mussulman and Christian inhabitants of the above-mentioned villages.)

No. 109.

Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 16.)

(No. 5. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, March* 2, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit hereafter, for your Lordship's information, copy of a telegram which I forwarded yesterday to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"Reference to despatch No. 4. Yesterday Prime Minister telegraphed to Sirri Pasha fresh charges brought against him, namely, imprisonment of Clerk and Usher of Courts of Justice, ill-treatment of Laz emigrants, and public discontent. All three charges are barefaced falsehoods, exciting indignation of all honest people."

Having called two days since on Sirri Pasha, he informed me that he had received the telegram mentioned in my despatch of yesterday, and in which he was warned that should his conduct continue to give similar grounds of complaint, other measures should be resorted to against him.

Sirri Pasha having shown me numerous declarations denying the truth of the charges brought against him, I considered it advisable to immediately acquaint Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople with what was taking place, in order, if possible, to prevent further complications detrimental to himself and to the public.

However, as I know that similar declarations are not always the genuine expression of the feelings of those who signed them, I inquired from the Gregorian and Roman Catholic Armenian Bishops, from the Greek Archbishop, from Tsourouksooli Ali Pasha, as well as from leading members of the Mussulman community, and from one of the Government officers, in whom last I have perfect confidence.

There was not a single voice against Sirri Pasha's administration.

The Government officer in question himself told me that, though personally he had no motive to be well satisfied with the manner in which he was treated by Sirri Pasha, he ought to confess that the latter was blameless in the discharge of his duties as Governor-General.

The answer of this officer may be considered to embody the real complaint that might be brought against Sirri Pasha, who seems to be in the habit of using sharp language towards his subordinates.

The incident which has given rise to the charge of illegal imprisonment on the part of Sirri Pasha seems to be the following:—

There being no sufficient rooms for the accommodation of the Courts of Justice, a

temporary partition had been erected, some time ago, by order of Sirri Pasha, for special sittings. One day he was told that the partition was being taken down; he proceeded to the spot, and as no one assumed the responsibility of having given the order, he inquired from the workmen, who pointed out the Clerk of the Court. The latter, interrogated by the Governor-General, and giving unsatisfactory answers, was ordered by him, together with the Usher, and two attendants of the Court, to proceed to the Ali Bey's room to be examined, and there they remained half an hour.

The party hostile to Sirri Pasha pretend that they were placed for a few minutes in the common prison.

I should not have troubled your Lordship with details of such futility were it not that they have given motive for the strong remonstrances which Sirri Pasha received from the Porte, and that I consider myself in duty bound to acquaint you with the real grounds on which they were based.

I take the liberty to point out that while Yussuf Pasha was Governor-General of this vilayet, and the condition of affairs was such as to despair all honest men, he repeatedly wrote, pointing out the shameful conduct of his subordinates, which was of public notoriety, and caused all the evil, but he was months before getting an answer.

And now, when a meritorious officer is charged on grounds such as I have just pointed out, no time is lost without telling him who his accusers are, and without asking for explanations from him, to accept the accusation as indisputable, and to treat him accordingly.

A similar treatment is the more to be regretted that it can only have for effect to diminish Sirri Pasha's prestige, to encourage intrigues against him, and consequently to be detrimental to the province which he is governing.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 110.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 185.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 17, 1880.

IN accordance with the request contained in your Excellency's despatch No. 248 of the 27th ultimo, I transmit herewith six printed copies of the Report drawn up by Lieutenant Kitchener on the general administration of the Vilayet of Kastamuni.

I request that your Excellency will have the goodness to convey to Mr. Kitchener my thanks for the information contained in this document, which I have read with much interest.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 111.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 186.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, March* 17, 1880.

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that your action with reference to the murder of an agent of Mr. Hadkinson by brigands at Kemer, as explained in your despatch No. 247 of the 27th ultimo, is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 112.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 282.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, March 9, 1880.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 134 of the 25th ultimo, I have to state that the question of giving the Armenian Archbishop of Aintab a Firman recognizing him as Archbishop of the reformed Armenian Church in communication with the Church of England, and permitting his people to be classed and taxed as a reformed Episcopal community, has already been submitted to the Porte, which, however, has hitherto declined to issue the required Firman. The Turkish Government states that it has recognized the Protestant community in general, and it proposed to grant to it the rights and privileges enjoyed by other Christian communities in the Turkish dominions, but that it cannot take into consideration sectarian distinctions and grant special Firmans to different sections of Protestants.

The question of the Constitution to be granted by the Porte to the Protestant community, which has constantly occupied my attention for the last two years, has not yet been satisfactorily settled, notwithstanding the assertion to the contrary made to your Lordship by Sawas Pasha through Musurus Pasha. I am of opinion that until it is settled it would not be desirable to raise that of the recognition of Episcopalian Protestants as a distinct religious community. It appears to me that, as it has been my object to give the Protestant constitution as much as possible a civil and not a religious character, it will suffice for the wants of the Protestant subjects of the Sultan of all denominations.

The less the religious differences existing amongst Protestants are paraded in the East, the better for the cause of religion and for our political interests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 113.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 285. Very Confidential.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, March 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter addressed to me by Mr. Consul-General Eldridge, relating to the language held by Suleyman Effendi Nakib Ashraf, an influential Arab Notable, and descendant of the Prophet, who resides at Bagdad, during his passage through Beyrouth, on his return from the pilgrimage to Mecca. It tends to confirm the reports that have reached me from many independent sources of the feelings of hostility now widely prevailing amongst the Arabs against Turkish rule. As Mr. Eldridge has not, he tells me, written to your Lordship officially on the subject of Suleyman Effendi's language, I have thought it desirable to communicate to your Lordship the information he has sent me privately.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 113.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Extract.)

SULEIMAN EFFENDI NAKIB ASHRAF, a descendant of the Prophet, resides at Bagdad, where, I am told, he administers the extensive vacouls of the Sheikh Abdul Kader el Gilain, a saint held in great veneration amongt the Mussulmans, whose tomb is in the neighbourhood of Bagdad, and is the object of pilgrimage. The vacouf property, I am informed, produces an annual revenue of 40,000*l.*, hence the great influence of Suleiman Effendi, who, it is said, has been invited by His Majesty to stay with him at Constantinople, whither, I am told, he will shortly proceed.

During the time Midhat was in Beyrout Suleiman was the guest of his Highness, and is now that of the most wealthy and influential of the Beyrout Mussulmans, the Bay Loceus.

From what I hear he appears a man of excessively liberal ideas, advocating equality between Christians and Mussulmans, and especially union amongst the Arab races, with a view of shaking off the yoke of the Osmanli, against whom he is very bitter, and is reported to have said that the present difficulties of the Ottomans is the chance for the Arabs, if they will only be united amongst themselves, and seize a favourable opportunity. He preaches these doctrines quite openly to all with whom he comes in contact, even to Dragomans of European Consulates, and seems to be encouraged in this course by Midhat, with what object I cannot say. The hatred of the Arab Mussulmans towards the Osmanli is well known, and has frequently been reported on by me and others, so that the views of Suleiman Effendi are willingly listened to by all.

No. 114.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 18.)

(No. 287. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, March 9, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith an extract from a letter which has been received from a gentleman in the confidence of Midhat Pasha, giving some particulars respecting the state of affairs in Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Vassif Effendi Clician to Mr. Nicolson.

Damascus, February 28, 1880.

(Extrait.)

JE commence par vous dire que la caravane de la Mecque est retournée sans pourtant emmener à sa suite, comme cela se pratiquait les années précédentes, 200 à 300 esclaves. Il n'y a eu que quatorze, dont sept furent arrêtés et mis immédiatement en liberté; et les sept autres furent, dit-on, laissés en route, pour les faire rentrer plus tard. Des ordres sévères furent donnés par le Pacha pour faire des recherches sérieuses.

L'enquête sur la corruption des employés à Balbek est terminée, et le jugement des inculpés commencera demain par devant le Medjliss Liva Idaret, de même les fonctionnaires de Hauran seront jugés par le Médjliss Idaré Vilayet. Le résultat une fois connu, je vous en ferai part. L'enquête sur les menées de Youssouf Mamluk n'a pu rien prouver contre ce sieur, mais le Pacha n'a pas voulu s'en tenir là, et il a ordonné qu'on juge les accusateurs avec les accusés devant le Tribunal compétent; et aujourd'hui le procès est commencé; sitôt fini, je vous en donnerai connaissance.

Ici, comme dans toute la province, les plaintes les plus amères sont formulées contre l'irrégularité, la corruption des employés des Tribunaux, et l'impossibilité d'accepter le nouveau Code de Procédure. Ci-joint je vous transmets une traduction d'une requête signée par 800 à 1,000 personnes, concernant la nouvelle organisation des Tribunaux, préparée en notre absence et présentée au Vali. Comme on aurait pu supposer que c'est à la suite d'une instigation du Pacha, la petition fut acceptée par son Altesse, mais il ne la réfère pas à la Sublime Porte. Je dois attirer votre attention sur un fait, qui est la conséquence naturelle des nouveaux Règlements. La police et la gendarmerie est créée pour maintenir l'ordre et la sécurité, et arrêter les malfaiteurs et les assassins. Eh bien, jusqu'aujourd'hui elle a fait son devoir à notre louange, mais malheureusement une fois ces malfaiteurs entre les mains des Tribunaux, la plupart sont relâchés, et cela pour des raisons inadmissibles. "Les preuves ne sont pas suffisantes; les témoins ne sont pas valables; en fournissant un garant nous sommes obligés de les relâcher." Leurs garants sont ordinairement leurs compères et fuient ensemble. Qu'arrive-t'il? L'autorité attrape les voleurs, les Tribunaux les relâchent. Puis à qui incombe la responsabilité de la sécurité? A l'autorité? Cet état d'anarchie ne peut pas durer longtemps et l'avenir est là pour me donner raison.

Les intrigues des autorités militaires sont incessantes et cherchent de toutes les manières non-seulement à contre-carrer toute action émanant des autorités civiles, mais aussi à augmenter les difficultés en créant toutes sortes d'embarras et d'entraves. La pénurie est à son comble. La Caisse n'a pas le sou; les employés n'ont pas touché leurs salaires depuis quatre mois; de même la police et la gendarmerie. Ce que son Altesse avait prévu et prévenu le Gouvernement Central est arrivé. Grâce aux mesures qui viennent d'être prises par la Sublime Porte, et que nous avons réfuté avec les arguments les plus basés et les plus explicatifs, mais qui n'ont, paraît-il, pu persuader les Ministres, le Budget de cette année ne sera pas de moitié des années précédentes. Ainsi les dîmes au lieu d'être vendues aux enchères seront régies par le Gouvernement. L'année passée nous eûmes £ T. 80,000 à £ T. 90,000 d'augmentation. Cette année, grâce au vol qui est à l'ordre du jour, et à la corruption générale des employés, vous pouvez facilement vous imaginer que la moitié des perceptions n'aura pas lieu, ou si elle aura lieu, elle sera gaspillée, volée, et les plaintes des paysans seront cent fois plus grandes. Puis n'ayant pas de magasins pour déposer les céréales, le Gouvernement sera forcé ou de les vendre immédiatement ou de les laisser pourrir en plein air. Voilà un grand malheur, et ajoutez-y le suivant. La taxe des moutons perçue par le Gouvernement n'a jamais donné plus de £ T. 35,000. L'année dernière, avec tout le contrôle du Pacha, elle est montée jusqu'à £ T. 40,000 à £ T. 42,000. Cette année on a offert au Pacha £ T. 60,000.

Cette proposition ayant souri au Pacha, car elle était très-avantgeuse à plusieurs points de vue: (1) que le chiffre offert donne £ T. 20,000 de bénéfice; (2) que cette année la mortalité des bestiaux étant très-grande à cause du froid, des neiges, nous n'aurions pas pu encaisser plus de £ T. 25,000 à £ T. 30,000, son Altesse l'a proposée à la Sublime Porte, qui s'est empressée de la refuser.

Comme je désire que vous soyez exactement renseigné sur tout ce que nous avons pu faire pendant une année de gestion, malgré le manque de pouvoirs, je vous prépare un Mémoire très-détaillé, et sitôt fini je vous l'enverrai.

No. 115.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 294. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter which I have received from Rustem Pasha respecting the present state of affairs in the Lebanon which may be of interest to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 115.

Rustem Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

Beyrouth, le 1er *Mars*, 1880.

(Extrait.)

JE n'ai rien à vous dire du Liban si ce n'est que nous sommes toujours en proie aux difficultés financières dont je vous ai à plusieurs reprises entretenu et même fatigué. A la fin de Février il y aura six mois que les fonctionnaires n'auront pas reçu leurs appointements. Je réitère les démarches auprès de la Porte et elles n'aboutissent qu'à provoquer l'envoi de nouveaux ordres au Vilayet de Syrie pour activer le payement de nos délégations, ordres qui de leur côté demeurent sans résultat. Sur le prochain Budget qui doit entrer en exercice le 1er Mars (v.s.) j'ai considérablement réduit les dépenses, de sorte qu'à l'avenir le Trésor Impérial se trouvera soulagé en ce qui concerne le Liban; mais les arriérés dus devraient être payés, car autrement notre situation restera toujours difficile et précaire. Midhat Pacha peut beaucoup pour remédier à cet état de choses, mais je n'obtiens de lui que des promesses.

A part cela, j'ai plaisir à dire que la situation du Liban est excellente. On nous a dernièrement demandé de Constantinople des statistiques mensuelles des crimes commis dans les provinces, et pour le premier mois je n'en ai pas eu un seul à signaler.

No. 116.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 18.)

(No. 296.)

Constantinople, March 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED a visit this morning from Hakki Pasha, who has recently been named to succeed Abedin Pasha as Vali of Sivas, and who leaves Constantinople for his post on Friday next. I had a long conversation with his Excellency on the subject of the administration of the district confided to him, and of the reforms that were urgently needed in it. I explained to him the policy of England with regard to Turkey; her desire to see the Turkish Empire strong, prosperous, and independent, which it could only become through good government and the contentment of its various populations. I explained to him that Her Majesty's Government did not wish to protect any one creed or race at the expense of any other, but that they insisted upon justice and protection for life and property for all classes of the Sultan's subjects. I assured him that so long as he followed a course consistent with this policy he would receive all the support that Her Majesty's Consul-General, Colonel Wilson, could give him, and that he would always find me ready to do anything in my power to help him at head-quarters.

Hakki Pasha assured me that he was fully persuaded of the interest taken by England in the welfare of the Turkish Empire, and that, as a pupil of Midhat Pasha, he had always been an advocate of an "English policy." He was going to his Government, he said, with a full determination to do his duty, and he hoped that I would find that he would show no less energy than his predecessor in preserving order and in putting an end to the abuses which had hitherto existed in the district. He had proved, during the time he was Governor of Samsoun, his resolution to punish crime and to ensure protection to the peaceable population, by the manner in which he had dealt with the Circassians and other lawless people, and his desire to govern justly and impartially. He should continue in the same course at Sivas. He thanked me for the support which I had offered to give him, and promised to consult Colonel Wilson and to listen to his recommendations.

His Excellency told me that, like other Governors, he had experienced the very serious inconvenience and mischief caused by the recent introduction of the new judicial system in the provinces, and that he had spoken on the subject to the Minister of Justice, especially pointing out to him that the independent action given to the Public Prosecutors (Procureurs-Généraux) gravely interfered, in many cases, with the authority of the Governor, who was, nevertheless, held responsible for the good administration and tranquillity of his district. The Minister of Justice, he said, admitted that his representations were well founded, and stated that the Procureurs-Généraux would be informed that they were not to act independently of the Governor, but to consider themselves subordinate to him.

Hakki Pasha developed to me his ideas as to the reforms necessary for Turkey, especially in the Asiatic provinces, which are just and reasonable. He is not, I find, the officer to whom I alluded in my despatch No. 260 of the 1st March, as having been named the successor of Abedin Pasha, who is a Brigadier in the Ottoman army, but a civil functionary who has held various appointments. He has been lately Governor of Samsoun, and bears a good character for honesty. I cannot discover that he has any reputation for administrative abilities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 117.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received March* 18.)

Admiralty, March 17, 1880.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Vice-Admiral Sir Beauchamp Seymour, dated this day, from Malta.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 117.

Vice-Admiral Sir B. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Malta, March 17, 1880, 4·10 P.M.

(Telegraphic.) AMBASSADOR at Constantinople has informed me that the Consul at Smyrna reports bread riots have occurred there, and serious disturbances are threatened.

Only 350 Turkish troops at Smyrna, and the Governor cannot guarantee public security. Foreign Consuls agree further protection necessary without delay.

I have ordered Her Majesty's ship "Rapid" from Constantinople and Her Majesty's ship "Coquette" from Athens, and have directed them to report by telegraph the state of affairs.

No. 118.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received March 23.)

Admiralty, March 22, 1880.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a letter from Captain Tryon, commanding Her Majesty's ship "Monarch," dated the 1st March, 1880, reporting his proceedings and the state of affairs at Alexandretta, Ayas, Mersyn, Aghalunan, Alaya, and Adalia.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 118.

Captain Tryon to Admiral Hornby.

"Monarch," Port Said, March 1, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that I returned to Larnaka on the 26th February from visiting the ports on the coast of Karamania, viz., Alexandretta, Ayas, Mersyn, Aghalunan, Alaya, and Adalia.

2. In pursuance of your directions desiring me to report on the state of affairs in these districts, I have the honour to report that all was quiet.

3. I enjoyed the opportunity of conversing with Mr. Henderson, of Aleppo, with the Vice-Consuls for the Vilayets of Adalia and Konia, Captains Cooper and Stewart, and of giving them such support as the opportunity offered.

4. Everywhere was rife the old story, viz., corruption of officials, and patience and orderly conduct of the lower classes of Turks; still, it appears to me, that the majority of our Consuls, and of unpaid Vice-Consuls in particular, who are often identified with questions that attract the attention of the public, of our Embassy, and of the Law Courts, hear much from their Dragomen, who are natives of the East, that enjoy British protection under the Consular flag, and who are no exception, that I can hear after some years' experience, from Levantines in character, and who are also concerned in money, land, and commercial transactions and disputes.

5. From such sources of information it is pretty certain that what is bad against the Turks is reported, but it is by no means certain that nearly all their difficulties with the Christians are equally put forward. Many Consular officers do not speak the language, and their information is from one source, thus, bad as things admittedly are, one only hears one half of the case.

6. Notwithstanding all this, since I first visited this part of the world, great changes have taken place. An Englishman can travel through Asia Minor freely, and with less risk to person and property than in many other better-governed countries. The people, nomads, and tribes along the coast live in greater harmony, and at Ayas in particular, where there were but a few scattered huts and tents in the winter season, with a sparse population and scattered herds, the villages have greatly increased in size and the population in numbers.

7. The land under cultivation is tenfold and more. It was difficult to understand how the land in its present condition carried the large herds of cattle and flocks of sheep we saw.

A good macadamized road has been made from Mersyn to Tarsus and Adana, and another to Konia is about to be begun. The present Vali, Zia Pasha, who, however, is in disgrace with our people, I am informed takes much interest in road-making.

8. I was informed that the Valis of Konia, Adana, and Aleppo were all enlightened men, particularly the two latter, although Zia Pasha, of Adana, is said to have acted very wrongly in a very complicated lawsuit and land case. An Englishman now deceased, a Mr. Dingwall, is said to have brought 40,000*l.* into the country, and to have invested it in land and other properties, in which his heir, his brother, is now concerned. I was informed his affair, as well as those of his heir, were greatly mismanaged, and to such an extent that the land and properties have been illegally sold by an agent, whose right and authority to sell is now questioned, and now there is neither money or anything left. So far as I learnt, the plunder is in the hands of Levantines, and even a foreign Vice-Consul has largely profitted. Captain Cooper, Vice-Consul for the Vilayet of Adana, has greatly interested himself, without success so far, in this case.

9. The Valis in these important stations, men of note in this country, are in disgrace at Constantinople, from which place they are banished. Said acquainted me he was at Aleppo by a mistake; that he would not stay there; that he had resigned more than once. It occurred to me, how is it possible to expect a high official, with more than vice-regal power, to take interest in his duty, to do the good he may desire and be able to do, to initiate any good measure, commence road-making, or anything else, knowing well, as do all those under him, that he is in disgrace with his Sultan; that he is distrusted by those in power, he is banished from Constantinople. Djemil Pasha, the Ferik at Aleppo, the Commandant of the troops, and Ali Risa Bey, who is collecting arrears of taxes at Adalia, are in the same position. The only hope before them is a reaction at Constantinople, when they may be recalled, and those there in power may suffer the same fate.

10. The gales, which this winter have been, I hear, of unusual frequence and violence in the Mediterranean, have not blown home on Mersyn, Ayas, or Alexandretta.

11. Mr. Tattarachi, the Vice-Consul at Mersyn (who, however, may fairly by regarded as an interested witness, as a holder of property in the town, in stores, &c.), says that in his many years' experience, he has never known a vessel wrecked there, and nothing more than the inconvenience of not being able to land is ever suffered, and that only for short periods, from the sea running from the south-west. The fact that large lighters strongly moored are kept afloat during the winter, and the condition of the piers testify in favour of his statement.

12. At Alaya, where the people flocked on board, as they did at other ports, the inhabitants appeared to be of a superior, good-looking type, a contrast to those at Adalia at all events.

13. On Chart 3 Karamania, south of Alaya, 3 or 4 miles distant, is printed: "a dangerous shoal near this; its situation not ascertained." Of this danger there is no notice on the General Chart, and I think when opportunity offers, that it would be as well to prove or disprove its existence.

14. All Consuls, Vice-Consuls, and others testified to the value and civilizing influence of a visit of a large ship to these parts occasionally, and I believe in this respect their views are correct. They were grateful to you for sending the "Monarch."

15. I kept aloof in the trouble between the French seamen of a gun-vessel, the "Latouche de Trouville" and the authorities at Scanderoon. The case afforded no exception to the rule that when any difficulty or any dispute with the local authorities in the East arises, the tendency still is for a national view to prevail, rather than the broad principle of right and wrong. Thus if one Consul urges a Vali in one direction, another presses in an opposite direction.

16. The "Bouvet" French despatch-vessel arrived at Larnaka on the 28th February. She had gone from the Piræus to Beyrout, but the captain described the weather as such that he could not anchor there, so he came to Larnaka.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. TRYON.

"*Alexandra*," *Malta, March* 8, 1880.

Forwarded for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty.

(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY,
Admiral and Commander-in-chief.

No. 119.

The Archbishop of Canterbury to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 23.)

Lambeth Palace, S.E., March 22, 1880.

My Lord,

I BEG leave to submit, for your Lordship's consideration, the accompanying memorandum, which I have received inclosed in a letter from Ignatius, Patriarch of Antioch, respecting the condition of the Christians who are members of the community over which he presides.

I am sure your Lordship will do anything that may be in your power to mitigate so miserable a state of things.

May I ask that your Lordship will direct that the memorandum may be returned to me.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) A. C. CANTUAR.

Inclosure in No. 119.

Memorandum.

A Selection from among many Outrages committed on the Syrian Jacobites during last year.

FOUR Kurdish Chiefs, Yousouf, Hassan, Hamou, and Halivi, with their followers, entered into the following three villages, inhabited entirely by Christians in the district of Diarbekir: the caza of Kissibin, Kemiki, Bouvardi and Serivan, after having killed and wounded several of the inhabitants, pillaged the villages and destroyed the fruit trees.

A certain Hadjiko, a highway robber, who was pursued by the Turkish authorities, hid himself in the village of Mizeizeh. The villagers immediately gave notice to the authorities. Upon receiving the information the authorities arranged to go and capture the famous thief, and for this purpose sent a detachment of troops, but on their arrival Hadjiko had already left the village. Temour Pasha, the Commander, being informed of this, he became furious for having lost the chance of laying hold of the assassin, gave orders to his troops to ransack the village, for having allowed the robber to escape. The soldiers immediately assaulted the village, and after having killed seven persons, carried away everything of value. Sometime afterwards Hadjiko returned with his followers, and killed four of the villagers.

The robber Khalo, with his followers entered the village of Semkhor, and searched for a certain Avedis, on finding that he was absent Khalo killed his wife, who was with child, and carried away all his goods.

Mahmoud, accompanied by fifteen other robbers, entered the village of Khavaritch, and after having wounded several persons, pillaged the house, and carried away with him the wife of a certain Vartan.

Hamed, of the sect of Hassan Shemdin, accompanied by a number of persons, attacked the Monastery at Kefertajdo and put out by force the Abedins (priests), and took possession of the monastery and its surrounding property.

In the district of Diarbekir, in the caza of Sivrek, Ali Gendj, with several others, went to the village of Hassero and carried away Barsoghom's wife, with another girl. He kept the girl for himself, and gave Barsoghom's wife to his brother. There are twelve other women and girls carried away by different persons, who forced them to become Mussulmans, from different villages in the same district. I have in my possession full particulars of the facts and the names of the persons, and can give them if needed.

During the late war the Turkish authorities took eight mules from the monastery Der Zaferan, and hitherto they have not been returned, notwithstanding constant applications made by the inhabitants.

Ibrahim Hasso attacked with his followers the village Keferzo, and carried away all the goods of the headmen (Nazer). The following four persons: Khalo, Osman, Ibo, and Ali are the terror of the inhabitants. They are continually committing acts of barbarism and oppression against the Christians, and the authorities remain utterly indifferent.

The church at Khalaat Mara was broken into and pillaged by the Turks.

A few years ago some Turks went and settled at the village called Mansourié, which was inhabited entirely by Christians. This year the Turks took up arms against the Christians, killed many of them, and drove out the rest, and took possession of their property, cattle, and everything they had. Those who survived are now destitute of all the necessaries of life, and are going about begging from village to village.

Hadji Eyoub, out of spite to the Christians, has let loose all his cattle and camels into the cornfields near the village Brahimi, and destroyed the food and the produce of the toil of the poor villagers, thus causing great distress to prevail in the village on account of the destruction of their corn.

Abdo Agha, a certain Chief of the village of Saded, in the caza of Hames, who unjustly took possession of a number of cornfields, brought an action against the inhabitants for having removed some stones in a water-way, alleging that the water belonged to him, and that they had destroyed the way by removing the stones, whereas the water belongs to the village, and in consequence belongs to the inhabitants; but Abdo being an influential personage they did not care to appear before the law to defend their interests. Being conscious of the fury and wrath of Abdo, and the revenge he would take afterwards, they proposed to name an attorney to represent them and to conduct their case, but the Turkish authorities refused to accept such attorney, and asserted that they must appear personally, in default of which the authorities condemned the villagers to pay all damages and costs claimed by Abdo, and put seventeen persons into prison, who are there now, as the villagers, so to speak, are the slaves of Abdo, with the knowledge and indifference of the authorities. These poor people will be entirely at Abdo's mercy.

In another village near the above-called Zedel the church was attacked; the people opposed, and in the struggle the priest was wounded and two persons killed. The authorities were at once informed of the incident, but nothing was done to punish the malefactors.

During last year, when the Kurdish Beys Osman and Hussein, sons of Bederkhan Bey, revolted against the Government, they went to the village Assegh and said that they must either take up arms against the Government, or else they would destroy the village with its inhabitants. By various menaces they forced several persons to follow them. These Beys have been pardoned, but four of their Christian followers, namely, Geurivé, Lahdow, Baous and Yussuf, are actually detained in the prison at Diarbekir, notwithstanding the avowal of the ring-leaders of the insurrection that they had been forcibly obliged to take up arms.

A few months ago Hadji Ramazan, with his companions, attacked the village of Mideh; those who could run away escaped the massacre, and the rest were all killed; then they carried away everything of value, thus completely annihilating the inhabitants, and laying waste an entire village.

The cases given in detail above are only specimens of many which might be given. There are hundreds of others wherein the outrages have been singly less serious in character, but when taken together they show that the whole country is suffering from the want of government, and they render the condition of those of our fellow-countrymen who are subject to them absolutely hopeless unless something is done on their behalf.

(Signed) IGNATIUS, *Patriarch of Antioch.*

No. 120.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 25.)

(No. 15.)

Beyrout, March 11, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10 of the 26th ultimo concerning the complaints of the inhabitants of Sour against Youssef-el-Mamlouk and Khalil-el-

Assaad, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch No. 21 which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople containing further information on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 120.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

Beyrout, March 11, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 13 of the 27th February I have the honour to inform your Excellency that recently a deputation of between fifty and sixty of the inhabitants of the district of Sour, chiefly Metualis, waited upon me to complain against the arbitrary proceedings of Yussef-el-Mamlook and Khalil-el-Assaad, which I have already reported to your Excellency.

Being already in possession of the whole of the facts, and having made the strongest representations to his Highness Midhat Pasha, as I had the honour to inform your Excellency in my despatch above referred to, I thought it best not to receive the delegates since my information was complete, and far from advancing their interests I should have created ill-feeling between myself and the authorities in personally receiving them, for which reasons I declined to grant an audience. Before leaving, however, they handed in a lengthy petition recapitulating more minutely the grievances already complained of, and praying earnestly for redress.

For the present I have not taken any action, as I prefer to give his Highness Midhat Pasha (the more so that I am informed petitions were again presented to him by the deputation which waited on me) a fair chance of acting himself on the suggestions I have already given him. I now await instructions from your Excellency as to whether it would be advisable to press the Vali further on a subject on which I have lately spoken so strongly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 121.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 25.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)

Beyrout, March 11, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 12 of the 27th ultimo concerning the fiscal frauds at Baalbec, I have the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. 22 which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople containing further particulars on the question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure in No. 121.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Beyrout, March 11, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 15 of the 27th February, I have the honour to communicate to your Excellency further particulars on the question of the extensive fiscal frauds at Baalbec.

On the termination of his inquiry Mohamed Saïd Bey, the Commissioner, sent Hassan Effendi, the Property Registrar, together with the former Kaimakam and the First Treasury Clerk to Damascus to await trial, which was announced to commence on the 8th instant. Meanwhile the Judge has been allowed to continue at Baalbec, subject to summons to Damascus if evidence given in the case implicates him, and though there is no doubt that he is gravely culpable, it is possible that he may escape punishment out of consideration for his long service, and the fact that

he has been hitherto unmolested, although his Highness Midhat Pasha received permission from the Sheikh-ul-Islam to deprive him of his office, would seem to argue that no strict measures are likely to be adopted against him.

Prior to his departure Hassan Effendi, the Registrar, was exceedingly active throughout the Baalbec district in striving to suppress evidence likely to condemn him, and obtained a large number of receipts from the proprietors, declaring to have received back in full the sums extorted from them without this being in any wise the case. This he managed by persuading them that it would be impossible, by any turn the question should take, that they would ever recover the total of what they had paid; that he was willing to pay one quarter on receipt of a quittance in full, and that it was better for them and for him to follow this course, as they would thus at least secure 25 per cent., and he might save himself, whereas if he were banished or otherwise severely punished they would see none of their money, all of which was in the hands of the higher officials. In this work Hassan Effendi was doubtless supported by Hoosni Effendi, the Meemiz or Head of the Department at Damascus, and the plan has been so far successful that Hassan Effendi and his chief will in many instances be able to meet the charges against them by production of signed receipts for the total sums, keeping meanwhile in their own pockets 750 out of every 1,000 piastres thus accounted for. The course of the trial alone can prove if such practices will meet with success, or with the punishment they merit, but the delay in prosecuting the present inquiry is suspiciously convenient to Hoosni Effendi, who makes use of such time to do away with injurious testimony which would invariably ruin him, and I have private information which leads me to believe that Midhat Pasha intends to postpone the trial until after my departure from Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

No. 122.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 26.)

(No. 301.)

Constantinople, March 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Report from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van, respecting a recent visit he has made to the district of Bashkala.

I have communicated to the Porte those parts of Captain Clayton's despatch which relate to the sufferings of the inhabitants of Hakkiari, their ill-treatment by the Kurds, and the necessity of strengthening the hands of the Governor, Toussoun Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 122.

Captain Clayton to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 2. Political.)

Van, February 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in accordance with the proposal made in my despatch of the 24thDecember, 1879, and sanctioned by you by telegraph, I started from Van for Bashkala on Tuesday, the 13th January, 1880. I reached Bashkala on Friday, the 16th, and on the following Tuesday I started on an excursion to visit a number of villages in the district, returning to Bashkala on Thursday, the 22nd. I finally left Bashkala on Monday, the 26th January, and reached Van on Thursday, the 29th.

In all I visited fourteen villages, exclusive of Bashkala itself. The condition of the country I found to be as follows:—The last harvest was an almost total failure. Even the amount of seed sown was not as a rule recovered; in some cases, not more than one-tenth or one-twelfth of the seed was got back. The inhabitants are on this account reduced to the greatest straits. In several of the villages I visited only three or four of the richest households had any bread to eat at all; the remainder had slaughtered and salted their sheep, and were living on this meat without any vegetable

diet whatever, and disease was beginning to show itself in consequence. In other places the villagers go out on to the mountains and collect a certain root, which they grind and use for making bread. The root is a somewhat large one, semi-woody and semi-succulent, with a very bitter taste. The plant to which it belongs is said to have large bread-leaves, but I could not, from the description, make out to what species it belongs. Several cases were reported to me of persons having been frozen to death whilst searching for it, and in nearly every village children had died from want of proper nourishment. The best bread I saw in the villages was made with one-third of this root and two-thirds barley meal (but such bread only the richest could afford); the worst consisted of a mixture of the root and linseed or hemp-seed, with hardly any flour at all. This last kind of bread is said to produce a narcotic effect, often sending those who eat it into a sort of swoon or trance. Even of this bread they have not enough for more than one scanty meal a day. Only a very small area of land has been sown for next year. The land was ploughed and prepared, but there was no seed. The prospects for next year will be therefore very gloomy unless the people can be assisted to procure seed for spring sowing. An additional circumstance adds a terrible weight to their burdens. Government in its need for money is trying to raise taxes by anticipation, and is squeezing the people for a second payment of taxes within the year, and is demanding sheep-tax even for those sheep that have been carried away by the Kurds. The consequence is that large numbers of peasants, having no money, have been obliged to borrow from their richer Kurdish or Turkish neighbours on the security of the next year's harvest, so that even if they are able to obtain seed the resulting crops will not be their own but their creditors', so that their condition seems likely to go from bad to worse.

The causes of the general poverty and distress are these. For a number of years, and more especially since the breaking out of the late war, the peaceable inhabitants have been exposed to the ravages of the Ashiret Kurds, who have robbed them of flocks, oxen, money, agricultural implements, and household effects, so that year by year, they have been getting poorer, and less land has been put into cultivation. Finally, the drought last summer ruined the crops; and in several places swarms of mice, that the dryness allowed to increase to an abnormal extent, devoured the little grain that the season permitted to reach maturity.

The reason that the drought has produced so much more disastrous an effect in the district of Bashkala than in other grain-growing parts of the vilayet, such as Arjesh, Mush, and Boulanyk, is that the streams on which artificial irrigation depends are more scanty and dependent on the season's rainfall, so that during the late dry summer not only natural but also artifical irrigation failed. In several cases also Kurdish and Turkish Beys who possessed property on the upper portions of the water-courses, selfishly diverted the whole of the water to their own lands and cut it off entirely from the lands lower down.

The country is, however, very fertile, and the villages show signs of former wealth, and the people themselves all say that if the present bad time could be tided over, and reasonable security obtained for the future, in a very few years the country would be again teeming with every kind of riches. Large numbers have emigrated to Persia and Russia, leaving their properties, but would return and reoccupy them if an efficient protection to life and property were assured.

As regards the government of the province and its general political state, Toussoun Pasha, the Mutessarif, appears to be a man sincerely desirous of improving the condition of the country, and painstaking and unwearied in attendance to his duties, but he has many difficulties to contend with. The officials have for so long been accustomed to corruption and iniquity that it is ingrained in them, and the Pasha finds himself almost alone in the attempt to stem abuses. The authorities in Van seem also inclined rather to add to his difficulties than to lighten them. He has been in the habit of employing regular troops to collect taxes, giving them secret orders at the same time to arrest malefactors, but he has just received orders from the military authorities in Van not to use regular troops for this purpose, but only zaptiehs, who are worse than inefficient. He has also received orders to remove bodies of troops and officers from certain points where he had stationed them to guard against Kurdish raids or to ensure order in the movement of soldiers and others about the country.

This interference with a man who is trying to do his best by those who do nothing themselves and are ignorant of the circumstances of the cases, is vexatious and discouraging, and leads to the suspicion that they wish to throw obstacles in the way of one whose energy and capacity puts to shame their own inertness or incapacity.

The way in which appointments are made to the various offices is also most detrimental. The Vali of Van appears to be wholly under the influence of the Temur Oghlu and one or two other powerful Moslem families, and fills up all posts that become vacant with members of these families or their creatures. These people make common cause with the robbers, and protect them in all possible ways, and when complaints are made their powerful relations or patrons in Van manage to stifle inquiry and uphold them in their positions.

The members of the Medjlisses at Bashkala also thwart the Pasha to a serious extent. A certain Hajji Mustapha Effendi, the President of the Criminal Tribunal, whose iniquities have been notorious, has, I am glad to say, been summoned to Van by the influence of the Reform Commissioners, but unfortunately others, hardly less hurtful, remain. Sheikhs Hamid and Mohammed Emin are especially complained of. The latter is married to a daughter of Sheikh Obeyd Ullah, and also to a sister of Ghalib Pasha, one of the Chiefs of the Temur Oghlu, and has, therefore, very powerful supporters.

An election of fresh members to the Medjlisses took place whilst I was at Bashkala, but in spite of the protest of Ohannes Vartabed, the chief Armenian ecclesiastic, supported by Toussoun Pasha, the old evil-doers, or others of like character, were again elected.

Toussoun Pasha informed me that a new order had recently been received for the formation of a new Court of Appeal after the European fashion as he said, but asked how it would be possible to carry out such an order when it was impossible to find enough persons who could read and write Turkish even for the existing Medjlisses.

The fact is that the country is not yet ripe for European institutions or popular government. What is wanted at present is a strengthening of the Executive in the hands of men of honesty and capability. Afterwards, when security has brought enlightenment and education, and fair elections can be guaranteed, more power may be gradually put into the hands of the people.

As regards the relations of the Government with the Kurds, the following incidents will throw some light on the subject. One day, calling on Toussoun Pasha, he introduced to me a Kurdish Chief, Jehangir Agha, who, he said, had fought on the side of the Government against Sheikh Obeyd Ullah during the recent disturbances, but Obeyd Ullah had now made complaints of his conduct in robbing villages, and demanded his imprisonment. The Pasha said he might have to imprison him, but would still remain his friend. I said that it hardly appeared just to punish a friend of the Government at the instigation of its enemy. The Pasha said that if the matter were merely between Sheikh Obeyd Ullah and Jehangir Agha that view would be just, but he had to consider the people. If he offended Obeyd Ullah there was great danger of his wreaking his vengeance on the unoffending villagers, and he, the Pasha, had not sufficient force or power to prevent it, and, moreover, he would probably not be supported if he opposed the Sheikh, as the Government had thought fit to reward the latter instead of punishing him for his recent insurrection. Therefore, he must try and find some means of satisfying the Sheikh while doing as little harm as possible to Jehangir Agha. The latter afterwards called on me to entreat my good offices. I made inquiries about him, and found that, although not perhaps entirely guiltless of oppression and robbery, he was a good deal better than many, and had protected the Christians during the war from other Kurds. I therefore took occasion to say to the Pasha that it appeared to me that to punish a man who had been faithful to the Government at the instance of its enemy would have a bad effect for the future, for if another rising took place, Chiefs would think it better to join the insurgents than to remain loyal, and I said that if he liked to use my name and say to the Sheikh that I had visited him and spoken for Jehangir Agar, and that for my sake he had pardoned him, he was at liberty to do so. The Pasha said he would carefully examine into the matter, and if Obeyd Ullah's complaints proved groundless or frivolous he would take the course I suggested.

Toussoun Pasha also asked my advice under the following circumstances:—At present certain Kurdish Chiefs have been recognized as Mudirs over their respective tribes, and in many villages there are Kurdish Aghas whose authority has been more or less recognized by the Government. Toussoun Pasha wishes to break as far as may be the tribal authority of the Chiefs, and to put an end to the petty tyranny of the local Aghas. Therefore he proposes to deprive the tribal Chiefs of their official position and banish the local Aghas, appointing in their stead Kiayahs or headmen to each village, who should be responsible to the Government for taxes and good order. He said he was aware that such a change would be likely to meet with opposition and

lead to disturbances; and he therefore proposed to give Derbay Agha authority as Kaimakam over the frontier tribes to keep order. I said that Derbay Agha had been much complained of, and I had written to support a request of the Commissioners for his being handed over by the Persian Government, and I could not, therefore, approve of his being placed in a position of trust. The Pasha replied that he was aware of the bad character of Derbay, but that it was a choice of evils. He had not sufficient means for keeping the Kurds in order, and Derbay was a very powerful Chief, who could do so if he chose, and therefore he had proposed to make use of him as a temporary measure. I replied that for reasons I had already given I could not approve of Derbay Agha's appointment, but that if the Pasha, with his more intimate acquaintance with the circumstances, still thought it necessary, I would not oppose it. At the same time I suggested that it would be well not to inaugurate such a sweeping measure in a hurry, but that it would be better to defer carrying it out till the spring, when the Commissioners would be able to examine the question and elaborate a general plan of reorganization. To this Toussoun Pasha agreed, but the discussion shows the difficulties which will have to be overcome in ameliorating the condition of the country. There are at present in Hakkiari three battalions and six mountain guns, but the three battalions together do not number more than 900 men, a force insufficient to keep the Kurds properly in order. Great complaints are made of Ali Khan, about whom I wrote in my despatch of the 30th December, 1879. He lives just over the Persian frontier, but his people make continual raids into Turkish territory, and continually rob travellers and caravans on the road to and from Persia, so as to considerably discourage trade.

The Christians are very much afraid of what may happen in the spring. The Kurds have in several instances said that they are obliged to remain quiet now that the snow prevents movements, but that when the spring comes they will terribly avenge the arrests that have been made by Toussoun Pasha at the instigation of the Christians. Although much of this may be idle bluster, I believe the danger is not altogether imaginary in view of the small force at the disposal of the Mutessarif. I, however, believe that my visit may have produced some good effect, as I was told that the Kurds were profoundly moved by it, as my having undertaken such a journey during the winter proved that the interest taken by Europe in the welfare of the people in these parts was a reality, not a myth. I took every opportunity of explaining that my mission was not one of hostility to any nationality; that the desire of the British Government was that all races should live peaceably and prosperously together under the rule of the Sultan, and that as long as this was the case no one's liberties would be interfered with, but that at the same time it must be clearly understood that the old régime of robbery and oppression must come to an end.

The day before I left Bashkala the Mutessarif received a letter from the Reform Commissioners, commending his activity and expressing a hope that his efficiency would render foreign interference no longer necessary. If every Governor were like Toussoun Pasha, and if such Governors were given liberty of action, foreign interference would be no longer necessary; but unfortunately such is not the case. I believe Toussoun Pasha was sincere when he expressed the wish that I could remain at Bashkala to support him against the hostile influences that were always assailing him, and I am quite sure that the Van Government, if left to itself, would be an effective, if passive, obstacle to any real improvement in the condition of the country.

The Van Government is sending 200 kilés of corn to mitigate the distress in Hakkiari, and the Armenians of Tabreez have sent some 250*l.* in aid of their suffering compatriots; but this assistance will go but a little way, and further aid to obtain seed for the spring is most earnestly to be desired.

The most urgent other needs are the strengthening of the hands of Toussoun Pasha and the placing of a stronger military force at his orders, and a purification and increase in activity and good intentions in the Van Government. The financial difficulty is also a terrible burden, leading to non-payment of officials, troops, and police, and to the grinding down of the peasantry already sufficiently weighted with the effects of the war, official corruption, Kurdish depredations, and a bad season.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 123.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 26.)

(No. 311.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 16, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the subject of the inclination of the Nestorian Christians to seek Russian protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 123.

Captain Clayton to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 3. Political. Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, February 2, 1880.*

DURING my late visit to Bashkala, Ohannes Vartabed, the principal Armenian ecclesiastic, informed me that about five months ago a Nestorian came to him and said that he was the bearer of a petition from the Nestorian Meleks to the Grand Duke Michael, begging for Russian protection and offering to agree to any terms that might be demanded as the price of such protection. The Nestorian begged Ohannes Vartabed's assistance in obtaining safe conduct through Persian territory into the Russian dominions, and suggested that the Vartabed should send a similar petition on the part of the Armenians. This Ohannes Vartabed declined, and refused to believe the man's story until he showed him the letters addressed to the Grand Duke.

The Vartabed afterwards wrote to Mar Shimoun, remonstrating with him on the course taken by the Nestorians. Mar Shimoun replied that he had personally been opposed to it, but the Meleks were not inclined to submit to his authority and had insisted on sending the petition forcing him also to append his signature.

Since that time Ohannes Vartabed assured me that more than one communication had passed both ways between the Nestorians and the Russian Government of the Caucasus. He also said that the Nestorians have a fixed idea that the Russians are certain to come sooner or later and that they had better make an arrangement with them previously. Mar Shimoun's relations with Sheikh Obeyd Ullah are also now very bad on account of the information given by the former to the Turkish Government about the latter's designs, and Mar Shimoun may therefore be very anxious to obtain speedy and effective protection.

Toussoun Pasha told me the same story about the communications between the Nestorians and the Russians, but according to him the first overtures came from the Russians, who sent emissaries to the Nestorians, saying that they had been expecting aid for a long time from England, and none had come; they should therefore look henceforward to Russia. Let them take example by Montenegro. The Montenegrins had for long resisted the Turkish Government although but a small people, and now Russia had given them independence and a Princedom; why do not the Nestorians, living in a similar country, and much more numerous, do likewise? This was Toussoun Pasha's account, but as the commencement of the transactions took place before his arrival I do not feel sure that he has had any independent source of information other than that derived from the Vartabed and am a little inclined to believe his version to be an embellishment from the Turkish point of view.

The day after my return to Van I was informed that a deputation of Nestorians had just returned from Tiflis full of hope from the manner in which they had been received. On the whole I feel pretty strongly convinced that the Russian Government of the Caucasus is, to say the least of it, not unwilling that the Christian populations of these parts should begin to look to them for aid and protection.

I think also the eyes of the Armenians are turning more and more in the same direction. Only yesterday an Armenian, in conversation with me, said that the Russians took more interest in the Christian populations of the Turkish Empire than the English. On my suggesting that this might not altogether proceed from disinterested motives, but that it might be a pretext for obtaining territory from the Turkish Empire, he said that it might perhaps be so, and therefore the Armenians would prefer to get aid and protection from England, but, nevertheless, they could not

blind their eyes to the fact that Russia had given freedom to the Bulgarians, &c.; while England had as yet made no improvement in their condition. This way of looking at the matter is, I have reason to believe, very widely spread among the Armenians. I endeavour to encourage them as much as I can, but they are getting very impatient to see some tangible results from English influence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 124.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 26.*)

(No. 312.) *Constantinople, March* 16, 1880.

My Lord,

AS Consul Dennis does not appear to have reported officially to your Lordship on the lamentable state of the country in the neighbourhood of Smyrna, I inclose an extract from a private letter from him to me on the subject. I have been informed, but I cannot answer for the truth of the information, that recently a vessel from Greece, or the Greek islands, landed two bands of brigands on the coast of Asia Minor, each band composed of fourteen or fifteen men, with a Chief.

I also inclose an extract from another private letter from Mr. Dennis, referring to the effect produced by the sudden and unexpected reduction of the value of the metallic currency, by an arbitrary Decree of the Turkish Government, upon the population of Smyrna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 124.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, March 8, 1880.

(Extract.)

I HEAR on all hands very bad accounts of the interior—that it is overrun by brigands or by armed peasants, who refuse to submit to the conscription. At Devil-keni, about 20 miles from Smyrna, there is a band of nine Greeks and Albanians who are ravaging that neighbourhood, and in the mountains around are about forty Yurruch, who have fled thither to avoid the conscription, and who can only exist by rapine. What need can there be of a conscription when regiments are almost daily disbanded, and without long arrears of pay? The Vali informs me that he has no power to cope with the brigands, that he has written again and again to the Porte asking for more zaptiehs, and the answer, when they condescend to give him one, is always that Smyrna is perfectly tranquil, and that he must diminish the police by 100 or 200 men. He says he has only 250 or 300 (I forget which) at command, and should have at least 600 or 700. I reminded him that he had plenty of soldiers, and that he could form his patrols by placing one zaptieh at the head of three or four soldiers, and thus render his police much more effective. He has, within the last few days, brought to Smyrna, as second under Yassim Bey, an Albanian named Suleiman Agha, who has greatly distinguished himself by his energy and zeal at Magnesia, where he was Chief. This looks as if the Vali were in earnest to put down the brigands. But the Government, like that of Italy, is far too lenient with these rascals, who ought to be treated as pirates, and shot without mercy whenever they resist the police. They are murderers by profession.

Inclosure 2 in No. 124.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Extract.) *Smyrna, March* 13, 1880.

(Private.)

WE are passing through a sad and shameful crisis here by the sudden reduction of the metallic currency. The medjidieh, which has hitherto been worth 20 piastres good money and 33 piastres bad money, is now reduced to 10 piastres; the altlik from

6 piastres good and 9 piastres bad to 5 piastres; the beshlik from 5 piastres good and 7½ piastres bad to 2½ piastres; the piastre from 1 piastre and 1 pr. 20 p. to 20 paras; and the smaller coins are declared of no value whatever. This shameful depreciation in the value of the current coin tells fearfully on the poorer classes, who find themselves without the means of buying bread. In any other land such a measure would cause a revolution, but the Turks are long-suffering beyond other people. There appears to be no remedy, no means of redress. The indignation of all classes is extreme, and disturbances are feared every day. People of all races and religions are execrating the Ottoman Government, and asking, "Why do not the English Government take us under their protection?"

No. 125.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March 29.*)

(No. 3. Political.)

My Lord, *Diarbekir, February* 13, 1880.

BAKER PASHA has now completed his inquiries at Diarbekir, and starts to-morrow by raft for Mosul. He will pass a day or two *en route* at Sert, a sandjak of this vilayet.

In my despatch No. 2, Political, I mentioned that his Excellency had recommended to the Porte that Abeddin Pasha be directed to return to Diarbekir to make a further and final inquiry into the cases of the Kurdish Beys, now in exile at Aleppo.

I endeavoured to support Baker Pasha on this point by means of a telegram to Her Majesty's Ambassador, copy of which is inclosed. The reply of the Porte was to the effect that Baker Pasha was himself to inquire into the matter, and to report to the Porte by telegraph the sentences it was desirable to pass on the exiles. As those are more than a hundred in number, and as many of them have been guilty of heinous crimes, while others of the number are less criminal, and some indeed are probably guiltless, it was manifestly impossible for Baker Pasha to make a full and searching inquiry into all their cases unless he was prepared to stay here for several months for the express purpose, thereby virtually bringing his present mission to a premature close.

He therefore telegraphed to the Porte, again pointing out that as Abeddin Pasha had conducted the original investigation, he only was competent to bring the matter to a conclusion. Baker Pasha was doubtless also impressed with the extreme undesirability of upsetting Abeddin Pasha's decisions.

The latter undoubtedly acted with very great energy, and conferred a corresponding benefit on the country, and it is highly undesirable that his influence should be lessened in any way: it is one thing to be asked to revise his own judgments, which were confessedly somewhat hasty, but it is quite another matter to have his judgments reversed by another Commission.

Influenced by these considerations, as well as by the fact that the further presence of Abeddin Pasha in Diarbekir is very desirable for many reasons, I dispatched to Her Majesty's Ambassador a second telegram, copy of which is inclosed. No reply has as yet been received by Baker Pasha from the Porte, so that I hope it has been decided to send Abeddin Pasha to Diarbekir.

As Her Majesty's Government has deputed an officer specially to accompany Baker Pasha's Commission, it is unnecessary that I should go into much detail as to his Excellency's proceedings.

The principal result to be expected from the mission is, that his Excellency will accumulate a vast store of useful information, and will doubtless be in a position to give the Porte excellent advice, and to make many practical and well-considered suggestions as to the reforms that ought to be introduced into the country. What action the Porte will take on the information thus acquired remains to be seen.

As the Pasha is not invested with any administrative functions, no immediate results can be expected from his mission, which has not excited much interest here, as no one believes that the Porte is sincerely anxious for reform, or in the possibility of reform, with the existing corrupt Administration at Constantinople.

The only practical result of his presence here has been the appointment of a Military Commission to examine into frauds committed through a series of years in the Police Department.

These frauds had previously been brought to light and a Committee of Inquiry formed under the presidence of the Alai Bey (Colonel of Police); but when on the point of

exposing them the Alai Bey was appointed by the Vali to be acting Mutessarif of Saert, and the Committee was broken up.

If the new Commission does its duty there can be no doubt that very important defalcations will be brought to light, on the part, I understand, of some of the higher police authorities.

As officials of the Government are concerned, they will, according to custom, have to be tried by the Idaré Medjliss, presided over by the Vali, and from what I know of the proceedings of that Tribunal in other cases, I do not consider that there is any probability of justice being meted out to the culprits.

Baker Pasha has inspected the gendarmerie and the new local police. I understand that he is of opinion that it would be impossible, even in any other vilayet, to find a more inefficient body of men than the existing gendarmerie (zaptiehs). When Abeddin Pasha was here the gendarmerie was weeded of several officers against whom complaints of inefficiency or dishonesty were proved; but after Abeddin Pasha's departure to Sivas these officers, four in number, were reinstated by the Vali Pasha, and are now doing duty with the force. Baker Pasha has informed me that as it is probable that the whole of the gendarmerie is shortly to be reorganized on an entirely new system, he does not propose any tinkering up of the present force.

With the new town police, a creation of Abeddin Pasha, Baker Pasha expressed himself as much pleased. I know that these men were very carefully selected by a competent local Commission; they were placed under a smart young military officer, get good pay, and are well clothed.

They are, however, unfortunately placed under the orders of the superior officers of the gendarmerie, by whom they are not well treated, and prior to Baker Pasha's arrival, officers and men of the police force talked openly of resigning. For financial reasons, as well as to avoid the evil consequences of this only natural jealousy between a badly paid and badly organized gendarmerie and a well paid and decently organized police force, Baker Pasha has recommended that the latter be paid by, and placed under the orders of, the Municipality. The Porte has, as yet, made no reply to this recommendation, which appears to me to be a very judicious one, and will, I hope, secure the retention of the services of a comparatively efficient and very useful body of men.

The exile of the Kurdish Aghas, and the formation of the police force at Diarbekir, and other principal towns in the vilayet, are the only substantial remaining results of Abeddin Pasha's Commission. The Diarbekir Police Force has proved a success; not so those in the sandjaks.

At Kharput, after Abeddin Pasha left, the then Mutessarif actually refused to recognize the newly formed police, and that body ceased to exist. For this, and other acts of open hostility towards Manas Effendi, the 2nd Imperial Commissioner, the Mutessarif of Kharput was rewarded by being named Wali of Mosul.

Baker Pasha has also been much occupied since arrival here with the consideration of the great scarcity (in places causing famine) of grain throughout all these Eastern provinces. At the urgent request of the principal inhabitant of Diarbekir, his Excellency has telegraphed to the Porte recommending the continuance in force of the prohibition to export grain from Diarbekir to Mosul. I also telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador, recommending the same policy, but the Porte ultimately decided to withdraw the prohibition. There are, of course, many plausible arguments to be brought forward both for and against such action, but the simple fact remains that while any quantity of grain can be floated down the Tigris with ease, it is absolutely impossible to bring such grain back again by the same channel, and until the approach of summer it will be very difficult to replenish our stock here from Kharput and Sivas, where most fortunately there is still some grain in the market. The price of wheat here now is 450 piastres the kila of 480 lbs., *i.e.*, about seven times the average market price of former years.

I hear terrible accounts of the mortality from cold and hunger of sheep, cattle, and camels on the borders of the desert; many villages about Suwerek, eighteen hours south-west of Diarbekir, have lost their whole stock of sheep; nothing remains.

The winter, which has been of unexampled severity, followed on a severe drought, and I fear that the whole country between Aleppo and Mosul has suffered in like manner.

The country about Diarbekir is still under snow, where it has lain ever since the 27th December.

The first eight rafts that left Diarbekir for Mosul after the removal of the prohibition to export have been forcibly stopped *en route*, two are said to have been plundered at Kassan Keif, while the others were stopped at Djezireh, and the loads forcibly taken possession of, payment at a fair price having been paid.

There are about 600 poor in the city of Diarbekir daily fed by charity.

My latest news from Van on the subject of the famine is attached to this despatch. Your Lordship will doubtless have received full details from Captain Clayton, who, in the absence of a direct post from Van to Diarbekir, has been instructed to send direct to your Lordship copies of all important despatches addressed to me.

The vilayet generally continues quiet, but I learned yesterday on good authority that in the western part of the Malatia Sandjak near Adiaman there have recently been several fights between two tribes of Kurds (the Rishwan and the Kau), in which many lives have been lost.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 125.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Diarbekir, February 2, 1880.*

CLAYTON telegraphs from Bashkala the 23rd January that without aid there will be great suffering; there is little or no bread; inhabitants living on their flocks and roofs. Very little grain sown for next year. Government pressing people for taxes, notwithstanding distress. Clayton returned to Van 29th, and reports that frequent messengers and communications have lately passed between Nestorians and the Russian Government at Tiflis. Baker Pasha has telegraphed to Porte asking that Abeddin Pasha be directed to return to Diarbekir to make a fresh and final inquiry into alleged misdeeds of exiled Kurdish Beys. I hope you will support this application, as the presence of Abeddin Pasha is desirable here for many reasons. Governor-General and local authorities are doing all they can to exculpate the late Governor of Mardin, who was dismissed and put on his trial by Abeddin Pasha.

Inclosure 2 in No. 125.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Diarbekir, February 5, 1880.*

PORTE has telegraphed to Baker, directing him to fix the sentences to be passed on exiled Beys. This is most undesirable. It will destroy Abeddin's prestige; cause jealousy, and delay Baker here perhaps for months. Please urge on Porte to send Abeddin. I am telegraphing this at request of Baker.

No. 126.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received March 29.)

(No. 4. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Diarbekir, February 18, 1880.*

BY yesterday's post I received from the Foreign Office a printed copy of despatch No. 1057 from Her Majesty's Ambassador to your Lordship on the subject of Baker Pasha's instructions.

This despatch inclosed copy of an article from the Constantinople newspaper, "Le Stamboul," giving an account of the powers said to have been conferred on Baker Pasha, and of the instructions that had been given him.

It will be but too evident to your Lordship from my own Reports, and presumably also from those of Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, that there was no foundation whatever for the statements relative to Baker Pasha's powers, contained in the "Stamboul."

A few remarks concerning the *personnel* of Baker Pasha's mission may not be out of place.

His colleague, Said Pasha, of whom I saw a great deal during his three weeks' stay here, appears fully to deserve the high encomiums passed on him by his Excellency Sir Henry Layard. He is on the best of terms with Baker Pasha, and works cordially with him.

Suleiman Pasha is merely attached to the mission, and, as far as I am aware, takes no

part in their proceedings. He does not sign the Reports. He is, I believe, cordially and deservedly disliked by other persons connected with the mission. He is of extremely unprepossessing appearance, but is intelligent and well informed, and speaks well both English and French. He is, doubtless, as surmised by Sir Henry Layard, the Palace spy upon the proceedings of the Commission, and he is said to be very anti-English and to correspond in cypher with the Palace. From Aleppo to Diarbekir he travelled apart from the other Commissioners by a different route. He did not occupy the same house with the rest of the mission here, and he is travelling apart from here to Mosul.

Baker Pasha has as Secretary Colonel Schakir Bey, of the Staff, of whom every one speaks well.

His Excellency is also accompanied by Colonel Tahir Bey, of the gendarmerie, formerly an Inspector in the Indian police.

Whatever this officer's merits may be, he is much disliked and mistrusted by the other members of his Excellency's Staff.

His Excellency's Private Secretary, Mr. Burgin, was unfortunately quite broken down in health, and will have to leave the General on arrival at Baghdad.

Zihni Bey, his first Aide-de-camp, has also been very ill, and returns shortly to Constantinople. Yusuf Bey, his second Aide-de-camp (son of Tahir Bey), is also in very delicate health, and will probably collapse under hard work.

Of Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., C.M.G., it is unnecessary for me to speak.

I have good reason to believe that the powers given to the Commission, such as they are, are available for a period of six months only.

It may be interesting to note that, while Baker Pasha receives the same salary as he has hitherto received (under contract), with no addition except the ordinary travelling allowance of a Lieutenant-General, yet both the Turkish Pashas have had their pay and allowances largely increased to such an extent that they both of them receive higher travelling allowance than General Baker, their actual expenditure being naturally very much less.

Of Baker Pasha personally I have a very high opinion and a great respect; he appears to have a great capacity for arriving at sound conclusions, and his conduct here has been marked by much tact. I know of no Englishman so competent to carry out reforms in this country, but I am afraid, nevertheless, that neither he nor I anticipate that much immediate good will result from his present mission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 127.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 29.)

(No. 3. Political.)
Aleppo, March 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch I have addressed to-day to Sir Henry Layard, reporting the present critical state of Aleppo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 127.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 7.)
Aleppo, March 10, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the present state of the city of Aleppo is very critical, owing to the great poverty of the people and the high price of bread. The poor are starving, and the day before yesterday several thousand of them paraded the streets, plundered the bakers' shops, and afterwards presented themselves at the Konak crying out for bread. Yesterday a repetition of the same took place. Said Pasha is doing everything he possibly can to lower the price of flour and keep the town tranquil. My French and Italian colleagues thought it their duty to make a public demonstration by parading the streets to the konak, in solemn procession, with armed cavasses. I took no part in this demonstration. Said Pasha told me afterwards that M. Destrées, the French Consul, had recommended him to bring the guns out of the

fortress and place them in commanding position in the streets. I need scarcely say that Said Pasha did not act on this suggestion. In order to tranquillize the mob and to cause a diversion till the measures in contemplation by Said Pasha for the relief of the poor could be carried out, I sent three Dragomans to purchase what bread they could and distribute it to the poor. This measure had an immediate and most beneficial effect. I have continued to distribute bread to-day, and I shall also do so to-morrow.

At Daer the people are dying in numbers of famine, and the state of the country is deplorable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 128.

Consul-General Eldridge to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received March* 30.)

(No. 17. Political.)
Beyrout, March 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. 23, and its inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the reduction in value by the authorities of certain Ottoman coins, and on the bread riots that ensued.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 128.

Consul-General Eldridge to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 23.)
Beyrout, March 16, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a few days ago orders were received from Constantinople by the authorities in Syria to reduce the value of certain Ottoman coins in circulation, which had the effect of perfectly paralyzing all commercial transactions, and causing a great deal of suffering, especially amongst the poorer classes, as the venders of provisions, &c., refused to sell their goods, owing to the uncertainty of the value of the money which they received in exchange. The result was that bread riots occurred in several places, which, however, owing to the vigilance of the authorities, did not, as far as I am aware, lead to any serious consequences.

As I was imperfectly informed of the details of this affair, I charged Mr. Consular Assistant Beaman to make inquiries, and to furnish me with a memorandum on the subject, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose for your further information.

Yesterday I received, in my capacity of Doyen of the Consular Corps, a protest (a copy of which I transmit), signed by the members of the principal European mercantile firms at Beyrout, which I at once forwarded to the authorities, fully endorsing the views of the signatories, a course of which I trust your Excellency will approve.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. JACKSON ELDRIDGE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 128.

Memorandum.

ON the 11th instant the local authorities received a telegram which has not yet been published *in extenso*, in accordance with which they declared by means of the public criers, and otherwise, that the Porte had decreed that henceforth the silver medjidieh, formerly at 20, was to be received at 19 piastres, the metallic "attilik" of 8 piastres at 5, and the beshlik of 5 piastres at 2½. The immediate result in Beyrout was an almost total stoppage of small trade, such as that in vegetables of all kinds, poultry, eggs, dairy produce, etc., and more than two-thirds of the shops at once put

up their shutters, so that since the issue of the Edict there has been the greatest difficulty in procuring the smaller necessaries of the table. The spirit which animates these petty traders is very comprehensible when we take into consideration that heretofore their whole business has been made up of transactions for trifling sums, the amount of which has always been paid in metallic money. In consequence of this their funds now consist mostly of hoarded quantities of this money which has been accepted at the former higher rate, and which they are very naturally determined not to give away in change, or otherwise part with, at the new rate, in a way to make themselves losers at 50 per cent. In other parts of Syria the excitement has been much more intense than at Beyrout, which is explained by the fact that much larger quantities of the metallic money are in circulation in the inland districts and in the south than in Beyrout, and the Government order has, in consequence, a wider significance, and touches a larger and more influential class there than it does here. In many places an *émeute* was seriously apprehended, although in Beyrout the merchants merely contented themselves with a very free abuse of the Sultan, who, they said, was enriching himself, not at the expense of his wealthy, but of his poorest subjects.

On the day following the Proclamation a meeting of merchants or influential members of the commercial community was held at the Serai, under the presidency of Raïf Effendi, the Governor of Beyrout, at which a rate was agreed upon at which money was to circulate in the town. This proposed amendment to the order of the Porte restores the medjidieh to a current value of 22 prs. 30 p., gives the metallic "attilik" a proximately intrinsic value of 5 piastres, and leaves the beshlik at 3 piastres, providing at the same time provisional rates for the small copper coins on the scale of a 20 para piece going for 12 paras. The current value of the medjidieh in trade has hitherto been as above stated among merchants, and it is proposed to maintain entire the value of this and all silver coins in the *status quo ante*. Gold coinage does not enter into the question. Although the intention of the meeting is good, the decision of a small body cannot restore the confidence of the masses, nor can it offer any guarantee whatever for the maintenance of the tariff it dictates. The Government, by discrediting its copper and metallic issue, has created such a panic that men are now afraid to touch it at any price, saying that they have no security against a further arbitrary reduction, or final withdrawal, as in the case of caimé.

Though needless to discuss the expediency of any measure of the Ottoman Government, a few remarks that suggest themselves may not be out of place.

The Treasury issued this metallic money some forty years ago at par, and it follows that by withdrawing it now at 50, they gain the handsome interest of 50 per cent. on the total value of metallic now in circulation. In extenuation they plead that the loss on their yearly revenue by the acceptation of depreciated money at par in payment of tithes, and certain taxes, notably that on salt, has been immense; in support of which they affirm that out of an annual Budget of between 18,000,000 and 20,000,000, two-thirds may be roughly estimated to have been encashed in metallic on which they have lost during the past few years at the rate of 20 per cent.

They now propose to accept only 5 per cent. of all taxes formerly payable in metallic in that money at par, and agree to accept it also for the payment of all old debts contracted up to date. It is believed that the copper money thus collected will be totally withdrawn from circulation and melted down. Arrears of army-pay are to be paid in metallic at a loss to the recipients which can be designated by no other name than robbery, and the bad feeling amongst all ranks of the military is naturally very great.

The aspect of the question with which European Powers are most concerned is the advantage taken by the Administration of the Douane of this Decree, to give notice that henceforth Customs dues will be taken in silver medjidiehs at 19 piastres, whereas by the Treaty of 1861, it is expressly stipulated that a duty of 8 per cent. shall be leviable on merchandize, which duty shall be paid and accepted in silver medjidiehs at 20 piastres. By taking the medjidieh at 19 piastres it will easily be seen that the duty at once rises from 8 to 13 per cent., and there is no doubt that the commercial community will protest in its own interests against this infringement of Treaty.

(Signed) ARDERN BEAMAN.

Beyrout, March 11, 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 128.

Merchants of Beyrout to Consul-General Eldridge.

M. le Consul, *Beyrout, le* 13 *Mars*, 1880.

LES Soussignés, négociants de cette ville, ont l'honneur de vous exposer que le Gouvernement Ottoman ayant récemment fait savoir qu'à partir du 1/13 Mai courant la valeur des monnaies serait changée, à l'exception du medjidié d'or, qui resterait comme par le passé fixée à 100 piastres, que notamment le medjidié d'argent n'aurait plus cours qu'à 19 piastres au lieu de 20 piastres, la douane de notre ville s'est prévalue de cette décision pour faire savoir au commerce qu'elle n'accepterait désormais la medjidié d'argent qu'à raison de 19 piastres.

Nous venons ici protester auprès de vous contre une mesure contraire aux Traités de Commerce actuellement en vigueur conclus entre les Puissances Etrangères et la Sublime Porte. Il est dit en effet dans ces Traités, paragraphe 6 de la conclusion (Traité Français) p. 97, que "le payement des droits d'importation et d'exportation sera effectué comptant en bonne monnaie d'or et d'argent au taux du Gouvernement; le Medjidié d'or à 100 piastres, ses subdivisions or et argent de bonne aloi, selon cette proportion cinq medjidiés d'or à 100 piastres" et paragraphe 8 à la fin.

"Les droits de douane dans les provinces seront perçus dans la modalité indiquée plus haut; c'est-à-dire, le medjidié d'or à raison de 100 piastres; ses subdivisions de bonne aloi or et argent, sur la même proportion cinq medjidiés d'argent à 100 piastres pour un medjidié d'or."

Ce texte ne peut laisser aucun doute sur le droit que nous avons dû payer pour les droits de douane cinq medjidiés d'argent pour 100 piastres.

Nous vous prions donc, M. le Consul-Général, de vouloir bien présenter notre protestation aux autorités compétentes, et de réclamer en même temps auprès d'elles l'application des Traités internationaux dans cette circonstance.

Agréez, &c.

(Suivent 23 signatures.)

No. 129.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 1.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord, *Sivas, February* 23, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches, one marked Secret, which I have forwarded to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have at the same time to transmit a despatch, which I have received from Captain Stewart, 11th Hussars, relating to his action with regard to Jemal Bey at Adalia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 129.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 31.)

Sir, *Sivas, February* 18, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 16, of the 23rd January last, I have the honour to forward to your Excellency some additional particulars respecting the emigrants in the Sivas sandjak of the Sivas vilayet.

It appears that there are at present in the sandjak 2,514 families of refugees, containing 13,472 souls, viz.:—

	Families.	Souls.	
Noghai Tartars	57	289	Came overland from Kars and Erzeroum.
Circassians	314	1,724	
Daghistanis	245	1,054	
Kars Moslems	1,455	8,516	
Erzeroum Moslems	17	95	Came by sea to Samsoon and thence by land.
Roumelian Circassians	408	1,729	
Roumelian Moslems	18	66	
Total	2,514	13,472	

Land has been granted and houses have been built, or will be completed by the spring, for 593 families of 2,978 souls. Steps are now being taken to assign lands to the remainder, 1,921 families of 10,494 souls, and I understand waste land has already been found in the Azizieh Caza for the greater number. Seed corn is in course of distribution, and as soon as the weather allows the erection of the houses will be commenced.

These refugees have been living during the winter in the villages, and as the Moslem population of the Sivas Sandjak is about 120,000, it will be seen that the burden which the villagers have had to bear has been no light one.

I would again express a hope that the Porte may be induced to set aside a sum of money for providing these unfortunate people with the necessaries of an agricultural life, and also to continue the issue of rations of corn beyond the 31st March, the date on which, as at present ordered, the rations will cease. There is abundance of grain in the granaries which might well be issued to the poorest of the refugees until they are able to gather in their own harvests.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 129.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 32. Secret.)
Sir, *Sivas, February* 21, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of a telegram which I forwarded to your Excellency on the 15th instant, relating to Bahri Bey, late Kaimakam of Kotchkiri Caza.

Soon after my arrival at Sivas last year numerous complaints were made to me of the conduct of Bahri Bey, and the stories I heard of the manner in which he oppressed and ill-treated the people were, in all essential particulars, confirmed by the American missionaries at Sivas. I could do nothing at the time owing to the absence of all government in the vilayet, but shortly after the arrival of Abedin Pasha I brought the case to the notice of his Excellency, who had himself received several petitions from Kotchkiri. The result was that Bahri Bey was suspended, and a temporary Kaimakam appointed in his place.

There is no doubt of the substantial accuracy of the accusations of cruelty and oppression brought against Bahri Bey; in fact his character is well known in the vilayet, for he was dismissed from the Azizieh Caza some years ago for similar misconduct. He was afterwards, however, through interest at Constantinople, appointed to Kotchkiri.

On the 14th instant, whilst paying a visit to Abedin Pasha, his Excellency told me that he had been directed to reinstate Bahri Bey, as he had great interest at the capital, and must, therefore, be kept in office. He also said that he would never consent to receive Bahri Bey as Kaimakam as long as he was Vali of Sivas, and expressed a hope that I would let your Excellency know what was being done. Abedin Pasha did not wish the Porte to know that he had spoken to me on the subject.

I should have brought the case of Bahri Bey to your Excellency's notice long since had not the Vali acted so promptly. A few weeks ago, when there was a rumour that he was to be reappointed, some of the people, who were quite terrified, came here to ask my assistance. I hope your Excellency may induce the Porte to confirm the action which Abedin Pasha has taken in suspending Bahri Bey, otherwise I fear the Christians of Kotchkiri will suffer greatly.

I am told that Bahri Bey is a Kurd and related to Kurd Ismaïl Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 129.

Substance of Telegram from Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sivas, February 15, 1880.

BAHRI BEY, Governor of Kotchkiri Caza, in the Vilayet of Sivas, was lately suspended for misconduct. He has oppressed the people, and there are serious

accusations against him. I have heard he is to be reinstated; if so great evils will follow.

Please urge the Porte not to reinstate him.

Inclosure 4 in No. 129.

Captain Stewart to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 3. Political.)
Sir, *Adalia, January* 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 19th instant I forwarded the following telegram to the Consul-General at Sivas:—"Jemal Bey, head of Court here, very influential; great scoundrel. Forced him to resign, he now sending inflammatory telegrams about. Population strongly in my favour, but afraid. Governor very inefficient and useless; slave of above. Governor should be removed at once."

2. To explain this telegram it is necessary to go over what has happened here since my arrival.

3. Both at Isharta, on the road here, and on my arrival, I had heard such strong opinions given about Jemal Bey, the head of the local Bedayet Court, that, making every allowance for exaggeration, I came to the decision that the man was not alone a scoundrel, but also a very influential one.

4. I determined, therefore, that he should either be forced to resign, or that a full inquiry should be made into his case and that of his Court.

5. On the 9th instant Jemal Bey asked, through the British Vice-Consul here, when it would be convenient for me to see him. I replied that I would not receive him. On the 11th instant the Mutessarif notified that he would call on the resident British Vice-Consul and myself at the house of the former. As he came accompanied by Jemal Bey I declined to meet him, and sent to inform him that I should be happy to see him, but alone.

On the 13th, at the house of the Greek Vice-Consul, Jemal Bey tried to force himself upon me, but I refused to be introduced.

6. On the 14th I called officially on the Mutessarif, and told him that the state of his Mutessarilik was simply scandalous, and that I greatly pitied him, surrounded as he was by a set of rascals; that Jemal Bey was a scoundrel, a protector of thieves and murderers, a disgrace to the Court of which he was President, and that the way in which the business of that Court was conducted was scandalous. I demanded that he should telegraph to Konia and ask for a full inquiry into the matter.

7. After some delay the Mutessarif agreed to this, and it was arranged that I should call the next day and see the telegram before it was sent.

8. The following morning the Mutessarif called on me, and said that Jemal Bey had been prepared to send in his resignation, but that on hearing what I had said about him he had decided to await the result of an inquiry.

9. I replied that I did not care what he did, and requested that the telegram promised yesterday should be sent. After this interview I telegraphed to the authorities at Konia.

10. The following day the Mutessarif again called, and brought Jemal Bey's resignation. It is hardly necessary to point out that by so doing Jemal Bey acknowledged the truth of my accusation.

11. On that day and the next Jemal Bey was visited by crowds, who came to offer their condolence.

12. On the 18th I received a telegram from Konia intimating that Jemal Bey's resignation had been accepted.

13. That evening I heard that Jemal Bey had telegraphed the following message to the Notables and people of Baldur:—"Our scheme is progressing, assistance is coming either by sea or land. Hurrah for the men of Baldur. Hurrah for those who will not spare money in the cause." I was told that the wording of the message was quite revolutionary.

14. The following day I telegraphed to the Consul-General.

15. I never attached, nor do I now, any importance to this telegram; but it appears to have alarmed the authorities. Jemal Bey asserts that the scheme he refers to is that of getting this place made into a vilayet; my opinion is that Jemal Bey sent the message simply to get money. He is notoriously hard-up and heavily in debt, and this is probably one of the many schemes he has started to get money from the

people. He is quite the king of this place, and lives by selling offices under Government, purchasing tithes at ridiculously low prices as no one dares to bid against him, protecting robbers, squeezing money from the peasantry, selling justice, &c.

16. Whatever should be his reason the authorities were alarmed, and it furnishes a very good excuse to get the man removed from this place. One of the chief causes of the bad Government in Turkey is undoubtedly the influence of these Notables, the people looking up to them far more than they do to the Government. I have made the acquaintance of members of this class, but I have met with none who appear to be actuated by any higher motives than that of selfish gain, increasing their local influence, intriguing against a rival, and amassing money generally by illegitimate means. Roads and public works have sometimes been pointed out as done by Notables, but an inquiry generally discloses that the only credit due to the Notable is allowing his name to be associated with it, and even this is not done for nothing. The labour on the road, materials, &c., are given gratuitously, through the influence of the Notable, by the poor. To use their influence and wealth for the good of their country, their town and neighbourhood, are ideas quite foreign to their habits of thought. The officials who oppose their baneful influence are intrigued against, petitions got up, and people forced to sign them; money is sent to Stamboul to purchase back-stair influence, and eventually the obnoxious official is got rid of. Hence officials, even if inclined, dare not oppose them; the best they can hope is that the influence of one Notable will be balanced by that of another. In many places such is the case, but here Jemal Bey stands alone; his word is law and no one dares to gainsay it. He has got a net-work of agents spread over the country either as Kaïmakams, Mudirs, or members of Medjliss, who are occupied in furthering his influence, robbing and plundering the poor and defenceless, and dividing the spoil with him. I have little doubt there is not a single petition sent into the Government here with a chance of success unless Jemal Bey's influence has been purchased in its favour. He is in the fullest acceptation of the word a thorough scoundrel, and the stories I have heard of his rascality are almost incredible. Fortunately, like most of his class, he is also a coward.

17. As for the Mutessarif, Hafiz Mehemet, he is a nominee of Jemal Bey's who intrigued to get him here, and to whom he is in debt £T. 500. This poor creature is completely wanting in vigour, decision, energy, or business aptitudes. He is also unable to write. He is said to be honest, but is otherwise in every way unfit for his office. Should he not be removed, and Jemal Bey remain here there is little doubt but that affairs will soon relapse into their old condition. Even now when Jemal Bey's conduct is so fully exposed he has not the courage to break with him, however much he may want to do so. I cannot too urgently impress on your Excellency the imperative necessity of his removal, and the appointment of an efficient official.

18. As for the population, Christian and Turk, they are strongly in my favour, and many, I am told, are the blessings called down on the British Government for releasing them from this man's tyranny. At a visit that was paid me by a number of Greeks they stated that they now saw that England was taking an interest in their welfare. Such, however, is their dread of Jemal Bey that they dare not come forward. They say he is quite capable of having their houses set fire to or themselves made away with. An election is coming on shortly for the Idareh Medjliss, and I have little doubt that Jemal Bey, through his influence and their fear, will be elected a member. They are a poor, miserable, spiritless people. To accumulate and hoard money is the only aim and object of their existence.

19. I have written to the Vali, and hope he will veto Jemal Bey's election should it come off. Should he not do so, I shall report the matter, and ask for your assistance.

20. As an instance of the robbery that has been going on here, there is the case of the Kaïmakamlik of Kash. This Kaïmakamlik was required to contribute for the war 90,000 piastres. The actual sum levied from the peasantry was 270,000 piastres, the difference, 180,000 piastres, going into the pockets of Jemal Bey and Ali Bey, a member of the Medjliss at Kash.

21. As regards Ali Bey, I am told this man, four years ago, only owned a camel and a horse. He became a member of the Government, and is now said to be worth £T. 4,000 and to have given away £T. 6,000 in presents to Jemal Bey and others.

22. I am told that, under a new President, the Bedayet Court has been doing wonders, and disposed of no less than twenty-five or twenty-seven cases in two days, besides visiting the prison.

23. I wish particularly to draw your Excellency's attention to the great destruction caused by locusts. For the last six or seven years this Mutessariflik, with the

neighbouring ones of Tshàrik and Buldur, have suffered greatly from this insect. Many of the poor are now living on grass, roots, berries, or what they can pick up. To this cause is also to be attributed the depopulation of many of the villages. Numerous I hear have been the orders sent on this subject from Stamboul and Konieh, but, of course, nothing has been done. Some of the Mollahs preach the doctrine that, as the locusts are a judgment of God, it is sinful to destroy them. Others put their trust in a Dervish who sells water from some holy well, and which is supposed to be very efficacious in attracting the locust bird.

24. The French Vice-Consul and myself have induced the Mutessarif to call a meeting of the leading merchants and proprietors on the 27th, to discuss this matter, and provide means for the destruction of the eggs. It is, however, evident that unless the neighbouring provinces also exert themselves our efforts will be of little use. Not alone will measures if taken at once save the people from starvation, but Government will also be a gainer in this Mutessariflik alone of £T. 50,000. In view of this gain I think it not unfair to ask that we should be assisted, if not in money, which is scarce, at any rate by severe and immediate orders to the officials.

25. I wish also to bring to your notice the result of stopping the export of corn and cattle. The practical result is to put money into the hands of the Custom-house officials. It is notorious that money will always close the eyes of these officials to what is going on. Meanwhile, the Government stores of grain, being badly housed and stored, are rapidly deteriorating.

26. I inclose copies of two letters I have forwarded to the Consul-General at Sivas since my arrival here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 130.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 331. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 22, 1880.*

ABEDDIN PASHA, the late Governor-General of Sivas, who has been transferred to the Vilayet of Salonica, called upon me this morning. He arrived two days ago at Constantinople, and has received orders to proceed to his new post immediately.

He gave me an interesting account of the state of that part of Asia Minor which he has recently visited as one of the Reform Commissioners, and administered as Vali.

He said that its condition had very much improved of late, but that an active, energetic, and enlightened Governor is required to maintain this improvement. He did not seem to consider the appointment of Hakki Pasha a good one. Admitting that he was an honest and hard-working man, he feared that he had not the qualities necessary for the administration of a district like Sivas.

The Pasha spoke in the highest terms of Colonel Wilson, who, he said, had succeeded in making the populations, Mussulman and Christian, understand what the policy of England really is, namely, reform of the Administration, the welfare of the people, and justice and protection for all classes without distinction of race or creed. The manner in which Colonel Wilson had carried out this policy had made an excellent impression upon the Mahommedans, and had gained for him their entire confidence.

Abeddin Pasha deplored the condition of affairs at Constantinople, and the difficulties which were thrown in the way of those Governors who desired to discharge their duties honestly and loyally. He had now been appointed, he said, Governor of a province which was in the greatest disorder, and he had represented to the Porte that unless he were given full and undivided authority, especially as regards the troops, he would not answer for the maintenance of tranquillity. He had been promised the powers that he had asked for, but he doubted whether they would be given to him, as it was now the policy of the Porte to make the military commanders independent of the Valis, for the express purpose of causing antagonism and jealousy between them. It was afraid of giving too much power to the Governor by placing the troops under his control.

Abeddin Pasha, who, as your Lordship is aware, is of Albanian origin, gave me his opinions at some length upon the questions of Gusinjé and the rectification of the Greek frontier. According to his views, the Porte cannot surrender any Albanian

territory without running the risk of bringing about a movement in Albania which will have the most serious consequences. He dwelt much upon the great importance to Turkey of keeping Prevesa. The Albanians would never, he said, consent that that port and the Gulf of Arta should pass into the possession of Greece. They might, of course, be forced by the armies and fleets of the great European Powers to yield, but not by the Porte. If it passed into the hands of the Greeks they would have to engage in constant hostilities with the Albanians, who would never relinquish their claims to it, and who would maintain them with all the stubbornness and courage which were characteristic of their race. It was therefore, he thought, in the interest of Greece herself not to insist upon having Prevesa, but to be satisfied with a large territorial compensation on the side of Thessaly, to which the Porte would be under the necessity of agreeing. To give Prevesa, with the Gulf of Arta, to Greece would be to deprive Albania of her only port, and virtually to cut her off from all communications with Europe, thus preventing her future development and civilization. He maintained that all Albanians were convinced of this, and were, therefore, determined to resist its cession to the utmost.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 131.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 1.)

(No. 340.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, March 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Consular officers in Asia Minor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 131.

Captain Clayton to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 5. Political. Confidential.)
Sir, *Van, February 11, 1880.*

SINCE my return from Bashkala both the Reform Commissioners and the Vali have made particular inquiries whether I have heard of the communications that have passed between the Nestorians and the Russians. I am afraid the Turkish Government may make these communications a pretext for harshness and severity in their dealings with the Nestorians. Although such a course would be very injudicious, it must be acknowledged that it would not be without some justification, as, if my information is at all correct, the conduct of the Nestorians has partaken of a somewhat treasonable character. They seem to have been playing a game of fast and loose, applying alternately to England and Russia for assistance. Although the Turks look with disfavour on any appeal for foreign interference, yet a petition to England, known as the friend of the Turkish Government, and invested by the Anglo-Turkish Convention with the right of intervention in the affairs of Asia Minor, would be looked on as comparatively inoffensive; but a request for the aid of Russia, the enemy of Turkey, wears a different aspect, and is likely to inflame still more the hostility of the Turks against the Christian populations of this country, whom they already hate, believing them to have been a principal cause of the late war and the consequent misfortunes of Turkey.

I think it would be very desirable for me to visit the Nestorians as soon as the season permits, and in the meantime, if any opportunity offers, I will send to Mar Shimoun a letter of advice and warning.

Inclosure 2 in No. 131.

Captain Cooper to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 11.)
Sir, *Adana, March 12, 1880.*

THERE has been a good deal of excitement during the last week owing to the fluctuations in the value of currency. On Wednesday evening, the 10th instant, the Government issued a notice that the lira (Turkish pound) would pass for 100 piastres, the 20 piastre piece (medjidieh) for 19 piastres, altilik (6 piastre piece) for 5 piastres, and that the beshlik (métallique) money would only be taken at half its nominal value. A percentage of arrears in payments and receipts would be made and accepted in money at its nominal, the remainder at its new, value.

This notice, confirming the worst anticipations, has caused great consternation, and yesterday more than half the bazaars were closed. For the moment the utter upset of the coinage is pressing very heavily on the poor, but the traders are also heavy losers. A large quantity of the beshlik (métallique) having recently been imported for the payment of the sheep tax and labourers' wages, many of the merchants have at one stroke of the pen lost 50 per cent. of their cash in hand. The loss to the country generally is very great; the people are excited, and the Levantine traders bitter in their denunciations of the Porte; but I do not think there is any chance of disturbance at Adana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 131.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 4. Political.)
Sir, *Van, February 10, 1880.*

I HAVE to report that I have been informed to-day of certain measures about to be taken by the Government in view of the scarcity of provisions in this district. I received the first information from private sources, but on making inquiries from the Vali he gave me further explanations.

Some time ago the Government received information which led them to believe that considerable quantities of corn were in the hands of private individuals, who were retaining them in view of a great rise in price. On this being communicated to Constantinople orders were received thence to call upon all persons to make a return to the Government of the corn in their possession, and to bring into the market any surplus they might have over what would be required for the consumption of their own households. If this order were not complied with by the end of December, the Local Government was directed to institute a search, and seize all the surplus corn that might be found, paying for it at a rate to be fixed by the Government. The corn thus obtained was to be used, partly for supplying the wants of the military, partly for distribution to the poor, and partly for the supply of the general market. A percentage would be given to any one who should give information leading to the discovery of hidden stores.

On this order being received it was promulgated in the "Idareh Medjliss," and the time for voluntary declaration extended to the end of January. As the provisions of the order have not been voluntarily complied with, the Government is about to institute the search and compulsory seizure of what hoarded stores may be discovered.

Such an interference with the proprietary rights of private individuals is naturally repugnant to one's ideas, but reflection may perhaps justify it in a locality where the great difficulties of transport at present so militate against the procuring of supplies from a distance to mitigate the prevailing need; and I have been often told of considerable stores existing in the hands of persons whose avarice led them to decline to produce them, even at the present high prices, in expectation of the scarcity and price being still further augmented. Still, the scarcity has been foreseen for a long time, and the necessity for such measures might in all probability have been avoided by timely action on the part of the Government whilst the ways were still open. And the carrying out of the measure will require careful watching to prevent abuses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 132.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Trotter.

(No. 13.) *Foreign Office, April* 3, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE to you herewith a copy of a memorandum on outrages alleged to have been committed on Syrian Jacobites during the last year which has been communicated to me by the Archbishop of Canterbury,* and I request that you will furnish me with a Report on the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 133.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 5. Political. Confidential.) *Diarbekir, March* 1, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Captain Everett's despatch No. 3, Political, Confidential, of the 17th January, a copy of which was forwarded direct to your Lordship, I have the honour to state that I have this day telegraphed to Captain Everett as follows:—

"Your despatch No. 3, Confidential. I agree generally with your conclusions. I now rarely interfere myself except in important matters."

With reference to Captain Everett's despatch No. 5, Political, of the 30th January, on the subject of protection required for a Protestant teacher at Hozloo, I have this day telegraphed to the Vali of Erzeroum as follows:—

"I beg your Excellency to give at an early date the buyuruldi asked for by Captain Everett for the Protestant teacher at Hozloo."

I have also telegraphed to Captain Everett desiring him to let me know the result of my appeal to the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

P.S. *March* 4.—I have just learned by telegraph from Captain Everett that the document asked for had been granted. I think it must have been issued prior to the receipt of my telegram.

H. T.

No. 134.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 5.)

(No. 7. Political.) *Diarbekir, March* 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to report that the distress on account of dearness and scarcity of provisions is rapidly increasing at Diarbekir and throughout the eastern portions of this vilayet, and I fear that many lives will be lost.

The question as to whether or no permission should be given to export grain from Diarbekir has, after much hesitation and many contradictory orders on the part of the authorities both here and at Constantinople, been finally decided in the affirmative.

Although originally opposed to the measure, I am now convinced that this final decision is a sound one, for the prohibition, while it lasted, was not effective on account of the venality of the officials, and I understand that nearly 100 rafts laden with grain left Diarbekir during the existence of the prohibitive order. At the same time, the existence of the order, from the consideration that it might at any time be actively enforced, prevented merchants and speculators from sending large orders for grain to Sivas and Kharput, where grain is plentiful and comparatively cheap.

Now that the order has been removed, however, another obstacle interferes to deter merchants from purchasing grain, viz., the insecurity of the line of river communication.

* Inclosure in No. 119.

I reported on the 13th February that two rafts had been plundered at Hasn Keyf, about half-way between Diarbekir and Djezireh. Since that date the Kurds from the villages near the Tigris, in the districts of Bischeri, Bairam, Kui, and Midyad, have been in more or less undisputed possession of the river bank, and up to date about thirty rafts have been seized and plundered.

Of about 200 that left Diarbekir within the last three weeks not more than five or six have succeeded in reaching Djezireh.

On the 23rd ultimo I reported, by telegraph, that the Government were taking precautionary measures. These originally consisted in sending telegraphic messages to the Governors of Mardin and Sert, telling them that they would be held responsible for further disturbances; but on the urgent remonstrances of myself and others, more practical measures were taken. The troops at Midyad (150 in number) were moved to Hasn Keyf with orders to protect the river banks. A mixed force of about fifty soldiers and zaptiehs were told off to accompany the rafts, which were detained, afraid to advance, at ten hours' distance from Diarbekir. Two parties of mounted police, each thirty strong, were sent along the river bank ahead of the rafts.

The officer in charge of the mounted police arrested and sent into Diarbekir some thirty Kurds, said to have been participators in the pillage of one lot of rafts, but on descending the river further he encountered a force of armed Kurds said to number 500. Thinking discretion the better part of valour, he awaited the arrival of reinforcements, but the last accounts received here state that the grain flotilla had arrived safely at Hasn Keyf without being attacked, but that Kurds in considerable numbers threatened its further progress.

It appears that the famous rebel Hadju is at the head of these brigand bands,* and a telegram received here a day or two ago from the Mutessarif of Mardin states that Hadju is reported to have attacked and plundered a Jacobite village, killing three of the inhabitants. He asked for more troops, and accordingly a company (100 strong) left this yesterday direct for Midyad, which it ought to reach in five days' time. With these reinforcements the Mutessarif of Mardin, Said Pasha, who has been ordered himself to proceed to the seat of disturbance, will have about 400 soldiers at his disposal.

Should this movement extend, which is not unlikely, serious consequences will most probably ensue. There are only four weak battalions of Nizams in the Diarbekir command, including Diarbekir, Mardin, Djezireh, and Sert.

Meanwhile, the population of Mosul and the eastern portion of this vilayet are deprived of their expected supplies. A fortnight has now elapsed since the Mutessarif of Mardin telegraphed here that if grain were not landed at Djezireh within ten days the people of the district of Schernach (lying north of Djezireh) would be absolutely without food. Not a raft has yet arrived, and I fear the consequences will be disastrous.

I believe that in the Sert and Redwan districts the people are on the verge of starvation, but as Lieutenant Cheriside has recently visited those districts, your Lordship will doubtless have been correctly informed as to the prospects of famine there.

From Mardin I received a letter a few days ago (of which I inclose a copy), stating news from Midyad that "the acorns are now finished, the wheat and barley gave out long ago, and now multitudes come to our helpers begging aid."

From the desert I have no authentic accounts, but the Arabs and Kurds who occupy the southern portion of this vilayet lost nearly all their flocks through want of forage and the unusual severity of the winter.

In the districts about Diarbekir itself there is great scarcity; in many places nothing to eat, and the poor are flocking into Diarbekir in considerable numbers, not only from villages in the vicinity, but from Midyad, Djezireh, the desert, and in some instances even from Van and Mosul. About 3,000 destitute poor are now being fed by charity in Diarbekir itself.

While writing this despatch a telegram has been received here from the new Vali of Bitlis, asking for grain, and begging that the battalion of soldiers now at Sert (not more than 200 strong), a district of the new vilayet, may be at once dispatched to some point in this vilayet, as it is impossible to obtain food for them in Sert. I understand that the authorities here contemplate moving them at once to Midyad. It is said that in many instances merchants are concealing their supplies of grain in Diarbekir and the neighbourhood in order to obtain still higher prices later on.

* *Vide* Blue Book (No. 10), pp. 56–61.

Wheat is now selling here at the quarter of about 540 lbs., but very often there is more to be had in the market.

The Local Government, with criminal imprudence, not only sold this year's tithes, but also sold off all the old stock of grain to speculators at low prices, not even retaining wheat enough to give the soldiers bread. Fortunately, there are stocks in Malatia and Sivas. The Governor of Malatia is sending 100,000 okes (1 oke = 2¾ lbs.), which is worth 1 piastre the oke on the spot, and will cost another piastre in transit, so that it will be sold here at 2 piastres the oke. One-half is intended for the soldiery and one-half for the town.

The Governor of Sivas is sending 300,000 okes for Diarbekir and 200,000 okes for Mosul, price on spot 1 piastre, cost of carriage to Diarbekir 2 piastres, so that the selling price here when it arrives cannot be less than 3 piastres the oke, or something near 600 piastres the quarter. It is impossible for the poor to buy at this rate, which is ten times the average price here.

It is really impossible to form any accurate estimate as to what amount of suffering and mortality there will ultimately be. The local authorities are so ignorant and apathetic that they do not seem at all to appreciate the gravity of the crisis. In many cases district officers make no report upon probable distress until starvation actually begins, and I imagine, in very many instances, not even then.

The great difficulty of forming any estimate is owing to the custom that all moderately well-to-do people have of laying in once a-year their own supply of provisions, and they bake their own bread, so that it is only the very poorest who frequent the bakers' shops. This year, however, there is no doubt, owing to the high prices current at the usual time of laying-in stores, that very many families who usually lay in their own supplies have this year failed to do so altogether, or in very many cases have only provided themselves with an insufficient supply. The enormous prices now prevailing prevent them from completing their stock even were there sufficient grain available.

As far as I can learn, the principal suffering will be in the Eastern Pasin, the Alishgird, and Bayazid districts of the Erzeroum Vilayet, the whole of the country north, east, south, and south-west of Lake Van extending right down thence through a broad strip of country to Mosul and Kerkuk. This tract of famine country spreads wider as it goes south, and may be said to extend from Diarbekir, through Mardin and Midyad, Nisibin and Sert (Soort), eastwards right up to the Persian frontier, and from the number of destitute Arabs now here from the desert to the south of Diarbekir, I fear there will be much suffering there also.

I believe deaths have occurred at Bayazid, Mosul, and Kerkuk, and Captain Clayton telegraphed to me a few days ago that fifty-five persons had died of hunger in six villages near Khoshab, &c., about half-way between Van and Bashkaleh. I believe also that there have been isolated cases of death from starvation in many parts of the region previously described.

In this vilayet the only assistance given by the Government hitherto is as follows: 90,000 okes of old biscuit prepared for the Turkish army during the war, but not required, has been sold at cost price to various relief Committees.

The Government is arranging to send to Diarbekir for sale 50,000 okes of Government wheat from Malatia and 300,000 okes of wheat from Sivas.

I have more than once tried to urge on the Vali Pasha the necessity of making an urgent appeal to the Central Government for more active assistance, but my efforts have hitherto been in vain.

It would be unfair to the Governor, however, not to mention an arrangement he made some months ago, which has been productive of great benefit to the poor of the city of Diarbekir.

At a time when prices were much higher than the normal, although very much lower than at present, he made the leading men here enter into a compact to supply flour to the town bakers, sufficient for town consumption, at a certain fixed moderate price, so that the price of bread would remain uniform at 1½ piastres the oke. Up to date this arrangement has worked well, and bread is still selling in the town at the above price; but as I have before mentioned, there are now 3,000 destitute poor in the city itself unable to supply themselves with bread even at a comparatively low price.

I was informed some time ago by a telegram from Her Majesty's Ambassador, that Lady Strangford had placed 100*l.* at my disposal, to be employed in the relief of the poor of these provinces. I was also informed from other sources that a gentleman from Edinburgh had sent out 50*l.* for the same purpose. I presume, although I am

not sure, that these sums were subscribed in response to the telegraphic appeal I sent to your Lordship in the joint names of the Vice-Consul for Van, the Vice-Consul for Erzeroum, and myself. I therefore decided to divide this sum into three equal portions, to be allotted to the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Van, and Diarbekir respectively, and I have left to Captains Everett and Clayton entire freedom of action as to the manner of spending this grant.

The distress in the Erzeroum Vilayet is confined to a limited district, and I understand that considerable subscriptions have been raised by the Armenians in Constantinople for their co-religionists in Erzeroum and Van.

Captain Everett has therefore, I think, very wisely determined to employ the money at his command in paying for the transport of Government grain to the famine districts, where it will be distributed on loan from the Government to the people.

Unfortunately, in this vilayet the distress is so widespread and the means of communication so bad, that if the money at my disposal were ten-fold what it is I should not feel justified in attempting that method of relief, even if the Government would give the grain on loan, which at present they seem to have no intention of doing; so with the exception of 20*l.*, which I have sent to the American missionaries at Mardin for distribution amongst the most needy of their neighbourhood, I am employing the remainder of the sum at my disposal in the relief of the 3,000 poor in Diarbekir—most of them refugees from the famine districts further east. I am now distributing two rations per week of good soup to about 1,800 persons, besides contributing in money to the local relief Committees already formed. I hope with the means at my disposal to be able to continue this system of relief until harvest time (end of May), when I hope and trust that the necessity for these measures will cease. In one khan alone there are 1,800 strangers, men, women, and children, mostly Kurds and Arabs, in rags and without any means of subsistence, except a daily dole of ⅝ of a lb. of biscuit. The soup given from the funds at my disposal will probably help to keep body and soul together.

I need hardly say that the beneficial political effect produced by the distribution of the small sum at my disposal is immensely over-proportioned to the means employed. For 1*l.* disbursed, the British come in for 100*l.* worth of blessing; and if any means could be found to increase the sum at my disposal I would most earnestly beg your Lordship to set those means in motion. Those numerous strangers who are here now, and whose life I trust may be preserved, will, if they survive, each one carry back to his home and spread amongst his friends a kindly feeling to the British people who succoured them in their dire distress. Strangers are still flocking in at the rate of from thirty to forty a-day; the distress increases every day, and these numbers will doubtless increase in proportion, while the means available for their relief will rapidly grow less and less.

For those who are disposed to look to the stomach rather than to sentiment, I may say that I can provide a capital ration of good soup to 1,200 persons at an expenditure of about 3*l.* sterling, so that a little money goes a long way.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

P.S. *March* 5.—While this despatch was being copied, telegraphic news has been received here of the safe arrival at Djezireh from Diarbekir of 150 rafts. Each raft carries about 20 quarters of grain.

H. T.

Inclosure in No. 134.

The American Missionary at Kharput to Major Trotter.

(Extract.) *Kharput, February* 21, 1880.

THE condition in Mardin and surrounding villages is fast becoming very serious. Owing to the high prices last autumn, at the time when the people are accustomed to lay in their supplies for the coming year, very many were unable to make anything like adequate provision. The unusually severe weather of January caused a more rapid consumption of the scanty stores provided, so that now very many are in actual want. The general depression of business is such that there is hardly any work to be had, so that many who, in ordinary seasons, would support themselves by their daily toil, are now getting nothing at all, while usual prices are so enhanced that, even if they had work at usual wages, they could scarcely keep soul and body together.

Houses are offered for sale, though if sold the inmates become homeless. In instances not a few the furnishing of the house has been sold for food, even to the utensils used in the preparation of food. It is not only the vagrant, beggar class that are in distress—during the last week or two the pressure has become very heavy upon the middle class.

The Protestant community of Mardin is making a noble effort to aid the needy, but they are fairly overwhelmed with applications for aid. They have raised some 5,000 or 6,000 piastres, and are taking care of all their own poor in Mardin and the neighbouring villages, and giving some aid to other communities. News comes from Midyat that the acorns are now finished, the wheat and barley gave out long ago; now multitudes come to our helpers begging aid. In Beenabeel, two hours from Mardin, a family was found with nothing in the house save a small supply of these miserable little thorn-apples and a little dibs. They roasted the haws, pounded them, and made them into a sort of cake with the dibs. But I cannot take time for details, nor must I weary you with them. I am sorry to say I am unable to form any approximate [*sic*] the real state of things.

But I feel well assured that there is much real suffering, and unless aid speedily comes from some quarter the condition of things will, ere long, be appalling. In any case, I fear many must starve. We have made an appeal to America for aid to be used in general relief, without distinction of race or creed.

It is said there are great quantities of grain stored up in Mardin and the neighbouring villages, which the owners are still holding for higher prices.

No. 135.

Lord Tenterden to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Foreign Office, April 8, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your Grace's letter of the 22nd ultimo, inclosing a memorandum on the condition of the Christians, members of the community presided over by the Patriarch of Antioch, and I am to inform your Grace that a report on this subject has been called for from Her Majesty's Consul in Kurdistan.

The inclosure in your letter of the above date is returned herewith as requested.

I am, &c.

(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 136.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 9.)

(No. 253.)

Constantinople, March 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum respecting the relief of distress in the Passin district.

I would venture to suggest to your Lordship that the part of this despatch relating to the relief of sufferers should be communicated to Lady Strangford, who sent the money for that purpose.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 136.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 9. Political.)

Erzeroum, March 12, 1880.

Sir,

IN accordance with your permission and my telegram of the 20th ultimo, I proceeded on the 1st instant with 150*l.* to the Passin district, accompanied by Mr. Robert Chambers and Badvelli Agoup, missionaries. I visited and examined personally thirteen villages, and have given relief to eighteen.

The distress in many of them was great, and I found the inhabitants of the Turkish village of Zaluki on the point of starvation. Those of Kopgle and Haran, villages situated on the left bank of the Araxes between Kuprikoi and Chorassan, and those of Yuzveran on the caravan road, were mainly in the same state. Nevertheless, the distress on the whole was not so great as I had anticipated, and the percentage of sickness was very small.

Relief was given for the most part in kind. Buying barley in Hassan Kaleh, I gave tickets to the villagers, noting the number of families and appointing a day for distribution. The system answered well; on the day appointed the villagers came in, and carrying the grain either on their backs or on sleighs all expense of transport was saved.

The Kaïmakam informed me that in seventeen villages—ten Turkish and seven Armenian—the Government wheat stores had been robbed by the villagers, and in this manner he accounts for the fact that nothing remains of the 900 somars which he had orders to sell (see my despatch No. 8, Political). But I believe this to be an exaggeration, and although I cannot prove anything, I fear that the wheat has not reached the destination intended for it by the Vali.

A Commission connected with recruiting has been lately sitting at Hassan Kaleh under the presidency of the Kaïmakam. By reporting as unfit for military service men who were perfectly sound and receiving a consideration for the same, the Commission were pocketing considerable sums of money. According to the Kaïmakam's account he, becoming aware that something was wrong, intimated to the members of the Commission that he would be glad to share any profits they might be making. Whereupon they confided in him, and he immediately reported the matter to the Vali.

According to the story of one of the accused the Kaïmakam was equally guilty, but a misunderstanding arising between him and the Commission as to the amount which should form his share, he turned King's evidence on the remainder.

There is great discontent existing in those villages where receipts are held for supplies given to the Government during the war. Instructions came from Constantinople that they were to be placed against the taxes, but on one village finding that the number of piastres due to them was treated as caimé and reduced to its present value, the others naturally hung back. Many of the receipts, too, are found fault with by the authorities, who, in fact, by every possible shift endeavour to evade the just payment of the sums due to the people.

On my return to Erzeroum I found great excitement reigning owing to the sudden depreciation of metallic currency. The day before yesterday a crisis was reached, of which I have already informed you by telegraph.

Tradesmen unwilling to accept the beshlic money closed their shops, and the poor, of which there are very large numbers here, being unable to buy bread, thronged the Serai throughout the day.

Troops patrolling the town maintained order, but the Government was loudly condemned both by Turks and Christians. Some shops have since reopened, but the refusal to take metallic money is causing great distress among the poor. The Government has temporarily opened a bakery.

Yesterday afternoon the Sub-Commissioners left to watch the cases which were handed over to the Law Courts reported to me that the Delegates from Keghi had informed the Tribunals that they could no longer remain here, and therefore would resign their cases. This course has been taken by them principally because the Tribunals cannot be induced to proceed with their suits. In the case of Mehemet Chaoush and Ismaïl Bey, the Court, not contented with the documentary evidence collected by the Commissioners, has requested Ismaïl Bey to bring witnesses that the land is his. He will have no difficulty in doing this by the aid of money. Mehemet Chaoush would appeal against it, but to do so requires far more funds than he can command. A petition was sent yesterday to the Commissioners, and I am writing a letter to the Vali of which I inclose a copy.

In it I have made an allusion to the detention of the Kaïmakam, who has been here now for three months, and has only been examined once. In the meantime, Suleiman, of Terjan, with whom the people are greatly discontented, remains at the head of the Administration. He is totally uneducated and ought never to have been appointed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 136.

Captain Everett to the Governor-General of Erzeroum.

(No. 1.)
(Translation.)
Erzeroum, March 11, 1880.

Excellency,

I HAVE been informed this afternoon that the delegates for the villages in the district of Keghi have been compelled to discontinue the prosecution of their cases, owing to their inability from want of funds to remain any longer away from their homes. Moreover, in the case of Mehemet Chaoush *v.* Ismail Bey, the Tribunals have thought fit, putting aside the documentary evidence collected by the Commission to call for fresh witnesses on the part of Ismail Bey. Against this Mehemet Chaoush would appeal, but that from want of funds he is unable to comply with the necessary formalities.

You are aware of the interest attaching to their cases, and your Excellency must be also aware that if they remain unfinished it is not unlikely that disturbance much to be expected may arise hereafter in this district. Should any such arise the Tribunals of Erzeroum will be responsible for them.

It is now nearly five months since the Commission left Erzeroum; during this time repeated applications have been made by me that these cases should be finished, and promises have been made to me that they should be speedily ended. These promises have been broken.

It is true that according to the new law the Tribunals are not to be interfered with, but it cannot be supposed for one moment that His Majesty the Sultan intended that such a law should impede administration of justice, or act in any manner detrimental to the interests of the country.

Seeing most clearly the great importance of a speedy adjustment of these cases, I have the honour to request your Excellency once more to advise the Tribunals, as far as lays in your power, to take them earnestly in hand and finish them without further delay. And I beg that you will inform the Tribunals on my part that the matter cannot be allowed to remain where it is, and that if in the course of a few days I do not see marked progress made, I shall feel it my duty to take more vigorous steps in the matter.

I will also take this opportunity of calling your Excellency's attention to the government of the province of the Keghi, which has been for the past three months in the hands of Suleiman Bey, of Terjan. Complaints are coming in to me of his inability to administer; not to be wondered at when he can neither read nor write.

I therefore trust that your Excellency will cause the examination of the present Kaïmakam to be proceeded with without delay, so that if acquitted he may return to his Kaïmakamlik, or, if guilty, that some able and educated man may at once replace the present Administrator.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 137.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 9.)

(No. 362.)
Constantinople, March 30, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Clayton to Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan, respecting the distress at present prevalent in his district.

I would venture to beg your Lordship to be so good as to communicate the substance of this despatch to Lady Strangford.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 137.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 1. Commercial.)
Van, February 22, 1880.

Sir,

I REGRET to have to report that the suffering from famine in parts of this vilayet is on the increase. Bashkala, Nurduz, and Shaddakh are in the worst condition. Yesterday the Armenian Archbishop informed me that he had received a written report of fifty-five deaths from starvation having taken place in six villages near Khoshab, part in the district of Bashkala and part in that of Nurduz, and to-day I have heard that word has come from Nurduz and Shaddakh that the people there, having eaten everything else, are now slaughtering their asses.

The Reform Commissioners are working to send supplies to the places where aid is most wanted, but the necessary measures have been so long delayed that the transport of supplies to the mountainous regions of Nurduz and Shaddakh is now very difficult.

The Commissioners inform me that they have made the following calculation:—

	Constantinople kilés.
Produce of tithe in 1879	150,000
Deduct—	
For maintenance of troops to next harvest	72,500
For necessitous population	28,500
For nourishment of refugees	20,000
Arrears not paid up	10,000
	131,000

Which would leave a surplus of 19,000 kilés for unforeseen contingencies. I hope the existing supplies may be found equal to the amount calculated upon, and that the wants of the vilayet may not exceed the estimate; I cannot but fear, however, that this is a very rose-coloured view. The calculation is made for the old limits of the vilayet, including Mush and Bitlis; the refugees are set down at 2,000 families.

The price of wheat in Van at present is 1 Turkish lira per chap,* or 8 liras per Van kilé. Bread, which in ordinary times may be bought for 20 paras the oke, now costs 3 piastres, which, of course, presses very hard on every one, but especially on the poor who could not make any provision for the next year before the great rise in price.

The sum of money forwarded by you out of the funds so kindly put at your disposal by Lady Strangford is most welcome, but from the prices that now rule you will be able to see how short a way it will go.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 138.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, April* 9.)

(No. 10. Political. Confidential.)
Erzeroum, March 12, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 4, Political, Confidential, I beg to inform you that Reschid Bey came to Erzeroum about a fortnight ago, staying in the house of Tastamaji, an Armenian of wealth and influence who is well known to you. Here he was met by the Russian Consul. He has since returned to Timar. I was told by the Kaïmakam of Passin that Reschid Bey had received from the Russian Government a sum of money equivalent to £T. 5,000, of which he has spent about £T. 1,500 in the Passin district.

I have ascertained from men who have received money from him that he requires no interest and takes no receipt beyond noting down the names of the recipients, nor does he stipulate for repayment by any particular time.

The work of poisoning the minds of the inhabitants of this district is not left to Reschid Bey alone. A certain Babo Effendi, of Hassankaleh, a man of some wealth and great influence, has been for some time past suspected of being in communication

* 1 chap equal to from 85 to 100 lbs.

with the Russian Government. The Vali has at this moment eight documents in his possession which clearly prove his endeavours to persuade others to share the same views as himself. Convicted of complicity in the matter of the Recruiting Commission mentioned in my despatch No. 9, Political, he has now fled from justice and is in hiding in the Passin plain. Baho Effendi was appointed Kaimakam of Passin during the Russian occupation.

A third person strongly suspected, is the Armenian Bishop of Passin. How many others there may be implicated in stirring up a feeling in favour of Russia I know not; but I am convinced that taking advantage of the present poverty of the people and of the inability of their own Government to help them, a serious attempt is being made to make a favourable impression. It was for this reason that I was anxious to proceed without loss of time to this district, and I trust that the distribution which has just been made by me will have counterbalanced in some measure this attempt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 139.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April 9.)

(No. 6. Political.)
Van, February 16, 1880.

Sir,

THE day before yesterday I heard a rumour that the Vali was going to recommend Hajji Mustapha Effendi, whom I mentioned in my despatch No. 2, Political, of the 2nd February, 1880, as having been summoned from Bashkala on account of the many complaints made with regard to his conduct as President of the Criminal Tribunal of that place, for appointment to a similar position at Bitlis. To-day I called upon the Vali and mentioned what I had heard, expressing the hope that he had no such intention, as it would be a scandal if such a man should continue to hold a Government appointment. The Vali replied that nothing was yet settled, but that according to recent Regulations no official could be removed from office without his guilt being clearly proved, and that the people, if not satisfied with a decision were very apt to make accusations of corruption, &c., against functionaries without there being any real ground for them, and that he did not think Hajji Mustapha was so bad as he had been described, and that he was an able man and knew the law well. I replied that every one at Bashkala, from the Muessarif Pasha downwards, had complained of this man, and that the Government would not be doing its duty if it did not make a searching investigation into the truth of the accusations made against him before recommending him for a fresh appointment. The Pasha said that certainly such an investigation should be made, but I cannot feel very much confidence in its being carried out with a real desire to find out the truth, and I fear that Hajji Mustapha will receive a new appointment to carry on the inquities of which I feel no doubt he has been guilty. I spoke to the Reform Commissioners also on the subject and said to them that it would be well if they would exert themselves to obtain evidence from Bashkala as to what Hajji Mustapha's conduct had really been, but I do not know that they will accept my suggestion.

The Commissioners informed me that copies of some of my despatches had been forwarded to them by the Porte and inquired what were the principal causes of complaint I had against the Vali. I instanced as one of the principal causes the great difficulty amounting almost to impossibility of obtaining justice. They said that according to new Regulations a machinery of justice had been instituted after the European fashion, independent of the Governor, who was, therefore, now not answerable for miscarriage of justice. This is true, but the new machinery has only lately begun to work and before that time the principal responsibility certainly did rest with the Governor. It is too early yet to form a decided opinion as to the effect of the new arrangement, but I fear that the principal result will merely be to render it very difficult to fix responsibility for delay or failure of justice. The Vali can always plead as he does now, that he has no longer power in such matters, "for we have now the administration of justice organized in the European manner," and it will be very difficult to fix responsibility. A complicated machinery is not suited to this country; it multiplies officials whose salaries must be paid without effecting much improvement. What is wanted is men of capability, honesty, and good intentions to carry out a simple procedure. I must acknowledge that the Vali expresses his wish to

examine into any failure of justice that may be brought to his notice, and that the Commissioners have been able to do something towards mitigating the prevalent distress by giving corn from the Government stores to bakeries in the town of Van and sending a certain quantity to the country districts, as I have already reported; but it is depressing to see no sign of such an organic change of system or sentiment as would be any guarantee for wide-spreading or permanent improvement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 140.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, April 9.)

(No. 5. Political.)
Van, February 21, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE within the last few days received two letters from Mar Shimoun, Patriarch of the Nestorians, copies of which I inclose. I have also received letters from the American missionaries at Oormiah, of which I also inclose copies. It will be observed that Mar Shimoun strongly denies persecuting the Protestants, alleging that the Americans are making unfounded accusations against him on account of the reception given by the Nestorians to Mr. Cutts. I believe, however, the real truth to be that the Nestorians, not fully understanding the relations existing between the English Church and the English Government, believe that if they profess to belong, or be attached, to the English Church, they *ipso facto* become entitled to the protection of the English Government, in fact, a part of the English people; and encouraged by Mr. Cutts' visit have been ever since expecting great things from English interference, and therefore inclined to be intolerant to any religious body that seemed at all likely to diminish the benefits they expected, by leading members of their nation away from the English Church. Moreover, Mar Shimoun may have private feelings of resentment against the Americans and their followers, laying at their door his greatly waning influence over the Nestorians and diminished revenues.

The delay in the accomplishment of the great things they expected from England after Mr. Cutts' visit has led to a feeling of discontent and impatience, and the idea that perhaps Russia might be, after all, a more useful friend, and has brought about the communications with the Russian Government of the Caucasus which I reported in my despatches No. 3, Political, of the 2nd February, 1880, and No. 5, Political, of the 11th February, 1880.

In reply to Mar Shimoun, I addressed to him the letter of which I inclose a copy.

I have laid his request for aid against famine before the Reform Commissioners, that they might include his district in their general scheme of relief.

As the Commissioners were aware of the Nestorian communications with Russia, I also thought it well, in the hope of influencing the Turkish authorities against any injudicious exhibition of severity or harshness towards the Nestorians, to say that it appeared that these communications had been opened before the Commissioners arrived and before the appointment of an English Consular officer at Van had become generally known, and when, therefore, they were rendered desperate by their sufferings at the hands of the Kurds, without seeing any prospect of relief; but that now the case was different, and that as I had written to Mar Shimoun to warn him of the danger of the course the Nestorians were pursuing, I had every hope that they would not continue any longer in that course.

The Jehangir Agha mentioned by the Oormiah missionaries is the man in whose behalf I spoke to Toussoun Pasha, as reported in my despatch No. 2, Political, of the 2nd February, 1880. I will see if anything further can be done for him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 140.

Mgr. Mar Shimoun to Captain Clayton.

Tekhoub, le 11 Janvier, 1880 (v.s.)

M. le Consul,

J'AI reçu avec plaisir votre aimable lettre en date du 11 Décembre et 1er Janvier, ainsi que celle de M. le Major Trotter, Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique. Je vous en remercie infiniment.

Mais ce que je regrette c'est que je n'ai pas pu lui répondre par cette occasion par le motif que sa lettre étant en Arménien, je n'ai pas trouvé pour le moment quelqu'un pour me la traduire.

Je vous ai, M. le Consul, bien des obligations pour le bien que vous faites, et que vous voulez faire dans l'intérêt de ma nation. Depuis trente ans le noble Gouvernement que vous représentez n'a cessé de nous accorder sa bienveillante protection.

Entourés que nous sommes des maux de tous genres, aujourd'hui plus que jamais nous avons recours à cette protection.

Au milieu de mes peines et angoisses j'attends des consolations de votre part. Je regrette infiniment que sur les rapports des gens mal intentionnés vous m'écrivez de ne point faire du mal aux Américains et aux Protestants. Dans la lettre qui vous a été remise par M. Joseph Amiroff je vous avais pleinement dit que je n'ai jamais puni quelqu'un pour la liberté de conscience, et quand même je suis dans le droit de punir les criminels, je m'en étais abstenu dès que j'avais reçu votre première lettre. Je croyais que c'était une affaire que je remettrais à votre jugement lors de votre désirée entrevue; n'ayant fait le moindre mal à personne aujourd'hui je suis tout surpris que les accusations pareilles continuent à vous être présentées; chose que je ne puis attribuer qu'à la haine que ces messieurs les Américains ont conçue contre nous dès le jour que nous avons eu une entrevue avec le Révérend D. Edward Cutts, Envoyé de son Excellence Mgr. l'Archevêque de Canterbury dans le but d'aider et soutenir notre Église. Je ne veux plus être long. J'attends avec impatience l'accomplissement de votre bonne intention de notre désirée entrevue au printemps.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) B. SIMON,
P. G. D. Patriarche d'Orient.

Inclosure 2 in No. 140.

Mgr. Mar Shimoun to Captain Clayton.

Kotchanis, le 26 Janvier, 1880.

M. le Consul,

DANS ma tournée pastorale j'ai eu l'honneur de vous adresser, il y a quelques jours, une lettre en réponse à la vôtre dernière.

Vu les circonstances difficiles, je me trouve dans l'obligation de vous donner une idée de l'état actuel et fâcheux du pays. La famine sévit tellement que dans plusieurs cantons les pauvres malheureux habitants meurent réellement de faim. Ni dans le pays ni dans les environs il n'est possible de trouver du blé ou autres céréales. Le mode d'approvisionnement est complétement inconnu dans ces contrées.

J'apprends qu'à Van le blé se trouve plus facilement. Dans cet état fâcheux je n'ai d'autre moyen que de m'adresser à vous, vous priant instamment de vouloir bien avoir l'obligeance de nous trouver un grenier de blé, et de nous le réserver tant pour l'usage de ma maison que pour subvenir aux besoins urgents des pauvres malheureux qui périssent.

Je dois vous le dire que cette famine provient de deux sources principales; le défaut de la récolte durant trois années consécutives, et la résidence d'une garnison dans un petit bourg tel que Djulamerg, qui ne peut la comporter. Cette garnison n'ayant point de provisions s'entretient nécessairement aux dépens des pauvres villageois, auxquels on arrache de force le peu de pain et de bestiaux qui leur restent.

Petros, qui vous remettra la présente, est chargé de cette commission. Il pourra vous donner là-dessus de plus larges éclaircissements.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) MAR SHIMOUN,
P. G. D. Patriarche d'Orient.

Inclosure 3 in No. 140.

The Rev. J. H. Shedd to Captain Clayton.

Dear Sir, *Oormiah, Persia, January* 30, 1880.

JEHANGIR AGA, Chief of the Direnai Koords between Gawar and Oormiah, has been for a long time a friend of ours, and a friend of the Christian people about him. The last summer, during the rebellion of the Sheikh, he was the only friend left among the Koords whom the Christians could trust, and he aided the Government against the rebellion very efficiently. We have heard of no petition against him in any form from the Riyots.

He desires us to give this testimony in regard to his character and friendship. We are glad to do so. He is very kind to us personally, and to our Nestorian helpers and friends.

Very truly yours,
(Signed) J. H. SHEDD, *American Missionary.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 140.

The Rev. B. Labaree to Captain Clayton.

Dear Sir, *Oormiah, January* 30, 1880.

I HEARTILY concur in what Mr. Shedd, my associate, has said of Jehangir Agha. His bravery in resisting the raid of the Harki Koords upon Gawar last summer I have often heard spoken of by the Christians in praise. He would seem to have deserved well of the Turkish Government instead of receiving censure. Perhaps you can induce the Sheikh Obidullah to overlook the Agha's opposition to him, since the Government has so generously condoned his own rebellious course. Sheikh Obidullah is quite disposed to court English favour, or was so last spring. He then sent a confidential messenger to us for counsel in regard to his contemplated revolt, desiring to obtain English protection. We referred him to Major Trotter. We have frequently friendly messages from him.

I recently wrote Dr. Reynolds of certain matters in regard to Mar Shimoun's conduct towards our friends in Bas. He still refuses to return the mule he took from Malek Odeshor, and repeats his threats of further annoyances, although, upon his recent visit to Bas, the show of support to the Malek by the villagers prevented his pushing matters.

I received a letter lately from the Bishop and others of Jeloo, saying that they wished to visit Van and lay some matters before you, and desiring me to speak in their behalf. I hope, if you meet them, while doing for them as Christians all you can, you will suggest to them that they refrain from annoying our Kasha Khomis and Shamashi Sergis and their friends in Jeloo. The latter was not able to return this winter to (? Jereny), owing to the opposition.

Those books, taken from our colporteurs in Gawar, in respect to which you took such efficient interest during their visit to Van, have not been restored, nor the other property. We are told the books were delivered to some parties to take to Van, which place they have not reached apparently.

Three years since our colporteurs were seized by Mar Shimoun and sent out of the country, his servants robbing them of a considerable sum of money, which to the present time we have been unable to collect, though we have applied to him several times. He denied to Mr. Hormuyd Rassam the facts as stated, but I afterwards obtained the very names of the thieves from members of Mar Shimoun's own family.

Thanking you, I remain, &c.

(Signed) BENJ. LABAREE.

Inclosure 5 in No. 140.

Captain Clayton to Mgr. Mar Shimoun.

Monseigneur, *Van, le 19 Février*, 1880.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la lettre de votre Sainteté du 11 Janvier et aussi celle du 26 Janvier portée par Petros, qui est venu me voir avec le prêtre Georges Hormizd.

Je ferai tout ce que me sôit possible pour vous procurer de l'aide contre la famine et je désire vous visiter aussitôt que la saison le permettra.

Une chose m'a fait beaucoup de peine. C'est d'avoir entendu que les Nestoriens aient ouvert des communications d'une espèce dangereuse avec le Gouvernement Russe du Caucase. Je crois que ce fût contre l'avis de votre Sainteté que ces communications ont été ouvertes, mais je dois vous avertir que le fait est connu et qu'il puisse entraîner des conséquences fâcheuses. Le désir du Gouvernement Anglais est de voir introduites dans ce pays-ci des réformes qui garantiraient la sécurité et le bonheur de tous les Chrétiens; mais sans provoquer une révolution qui pourrait être la cause de grands malheurs. Par conséquent, une invitation de la part des Nestoriens aux Russes d'entrer dans le pays ne pourrait que rendre très-difficile la tâche que le Gouvernement Anglais s'est proposé et retarder son achèvement. Donc, je vous prie d'user toute votre influence avec votre peuple pour les empêcher de suivre une voie si dangereuse, et pour les persuader d'attendre avec un peu plus de patience le résultat des efforts que le Gouvernement Anglais ne cesse pas de faire pour le bonheur des habitants de ce pays.

Il me fait grand plaisir d'entendre que vous n'avez pas le désir d'être hostile aux Américains et aux Protestants, et j'espère que vous tâcherez de surveiller sur vos gens de sorte qu'il n'y ait plus de cause pour les plaintes qui ne cessent pas d'arriver auprès de moi. Quand je ferai visite à votre pays je serais bien content de trouver tout le monde vivant ensemble en paix, parce que les Anglais considèrent la liberté de conscience la plus complète comme une des privilèges des plus sacrés de l'humanité.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 141.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 14.)

(No. 4. Political.)

Aleppo, March 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch (one inclosure) addressed to me last December by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and a copy of my reply thereto.

I also inclose, for your Lordship's consideration, a further despatch (with three inclosures) which I have addressed to his Excellency to-day on the same subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 141.

Sir A. H. Layard to Consul Henderson.

Pera, November 28, 1879.

Sir,

I INCLOSE a copy of a letter I have received from the Armenian Patriarch here, relative to attempts which, he states, are being made by certain foreign Consuls at Aleppo to convert Armenians to Roman Catholicism. I should be glad to receive any observations you may have to make on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 2 in No. 141.

Mgr. Nercès to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Patriarcat Arménien, Constantinople, le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Novembre*, 1879.

LES autorités ecclésiastiques de la Cilicie m'apprennent que le Consul de France et surtout celui d'Italie à Alep semblent poursuivre une politique tendant à convertir au Catholicisme les Arméniens de cette partie de la Turquie d'Asie. L'affaire du village de Gheoia pourrait servir de preuve à cette assertion.

Il y a dans ce village un Arménien influent, nommé Cheik Hanné, qui prend soin des intérêts de la communauté Arménienne. Ce fait a suffi pour le rendre odieux au clergé Catholique de Gheoia, qui s'est adressé en dernier lieu à son Excellence Said Pacha, Gouverneur d'Alep, pour obtenir son bannissement. L'intervention de Sa Béatitude le Catolicos de Sis a servi à faire échouer pour le moment ce projet impie.

Mais les Catholiques ne manqueront pas de revenir à la charge, soutenus qu'ils sont par les Consuls d'Italie et de France. C'est pourquoi je crois devoir m'adresser à votre Excellence pour la prier de vouloir bien recommander d'une manière toute spéciale à Mr. Henderson de prendre en main la défense des intérêts des Arméniens de Gheoia, pour les soustraire à la pression exercée par les séides de la Papauté.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) NERCÈS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 141.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, December 24, 1879.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 27, I have the honour to state, for your Excellency's information, that the Jesuit and Roman Catholic priesthood throughout the vilayet generally have for some time past been most active and persistent in their attempts to convert the Armenians to Roman Catholicism, and all the influence of France is being used, sometimes not very scrupulously, to support their propaganda.

The Patriarch, in his letter to your Excellency, makes special mention of the case of the village of Koeya as an example, and certainly the animus and violence displayed by my French colleague against the Armenians of that village who have refused to accept the Papal dogmas scarcely becomes the Representative of a Power like France.

Franciscan monks were sent to the village to convert the Armenians, but little progress was made, as the villagers were slow of conversion, and preferred their ancient faith; an Armenian priest who owed 200*l.* to the Patriarch, was induced by promises of French protection to become a proselyte, and eventually this priest and the monks succeeded in making some thirty converts, some by promises of French protection, and others by even less creditable means. The Armenians were naturally very much annoyed at the behaviour of the priests, but the Kaïmakam behaved well and maintained tranquillity with admirable tact; but the priests were unsatisfied with this measure of success, and wished the Kaïmakam to use his influence to procure converts for them, and on his refusal, false charges were made against him, and by the influence of the French Consul he was recalled to Aleppo.

The inquiry into his conduct proved his entire innocence of the charges preferred against him, and the Acting Governor-General very properly reinstated him. But the French Consul behaved in the most violent manner, and Said Pasha, without going into the details of the matter, sacrificed the man to the violence of M. Destrées and transferred him elsewhere.

The triumph of French violence at Aleppo inflamed the zeal of the converts, and their conduct became so offensive and insulting that a conflict ensued in which fourteen persons were wounded, the armed escort of the Franciscan monks having commenced the fray.

Sheikh Hanna, an Armenian Notable known for his staunch adherence to his own creed, has given special offence to the French party, and it appears he has been singled out as a fit victim for persecution.

Every effort is being made by M. Destrées to crush this man as he did the Kaïmakam, and it appears that there is every prospect of his succeeding in doing so, as I hear he is going to appear in person against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

P.S.—I have just learnt that a paid French Vice-Consul has been appointed at Marash with the avowed object of diminishing English influence with the Armenian and Mussulman population.

P. H.

Inclosure 4 in No. 141.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Aleppo, March 24, 1880.

Sir,

ON the 24th December last I had the honour of addressing to your Excellency my despatch in reply to the instruction forwarded to me by your Excellency on the 28th November, 1879. Since forwarding the particulars contained in my above-mentioned Report on the efforts made by my French and Italian colleagues to assist the Roman Catholic priests in converting members of the old Armenian Church to that of Rome, strange proceedings have taken place in the same connection, and my attention has been called to them by a letter from the Patriarch of Cilicia, a translation of which is herewith inclosed.

This communication contains statements so violently opposed to one's sense of what is right and proper on the part of Consular and ecclesiastical authorities, that it seems to me impossible to think of forwarding them to your Excellency in continuation of the Report called for by Her Majesty's Embassy on the subject. To verify the statements was not in my power, Sheikh Hana having left Aleppo, and without incontrovertible proof I was reluctant to take any action whatsoever in the matter.

My scruples were, however, suddenly and unexpectedly dispelled by the fact of the original document in question being placed in my hands, a copy and translation of which I herewith inclose. It was sent to me by Sheikh Hana himself before he left for his village to affix his seal to it. My utter amazement may be well conceived when I found in the text a declaration by five persons that they had seen Sheikh Hana affix his seal, while there is no seal at all on the document. The five persons were the Roman Catholic Priest, Bonaventura Fernandez, the Chancelier of the French Consulate, signing for his Chief (who had specially authorized him to do so), the Secretary Interpreter of the Governor-General, and two witnesses, both Italian subjects.

It appears that Sheikh Hana had not understood the paper which he was required to put his seal to, and before doing so had wished that I should see it, in the hope that I would save him from the snare laid for him.

It is incredible that Sheikh Hana could have confessed his guilt of the threat of murder of which he was accused; and it is equally problematical that a Governor-General like Said Pasha should send a delegate to condone such an offence in his name, thwarting thus the ends of justice, and unwarrantably interfering in proceedings before the Criminal Court.

Further, this document, which bears the character of a forgery, in so far as it professes to be an affidavit made, which was not made, and to be confirmed by a seal which has not been affixed to it, concludes with a formal statement that it had been drawn up at the Italian Consulate. I am at a loss to comprehend under what schedule of Consular operations a proceeding of this kind could be classed, even if it were in every particular in accordance with good faith; but, deficient as it is in the only quality which would give it weight as a legal document—the quality of truth in its statements—I must beg leave to abstain from any remark on the subject.

I do not, however, feel the same repugnance in expressing my opinion of the conduct of the Secretary-Interpreter of the Governor-General, who openly compounded a felony in the name of his Government, assuming a right which could only belong to the Sultan himself. I have spoken to Said Pasha on the subject, and I was gratified by receiving his assurance of his not having given any such instruction. A subordinate clerk of a provincial Administration has thus usurped the sovereign prerogative of pardoning crime.

But I trust that these extraordinary features of the Turkish judicial proceedings, as well as of the French and Italian Consular functions, will not be allowed to pass into precedents, which may lead to still greater irregularities, if any greater be possible, frustrating the ends of justice, and exposing fair reputations to ruin by Star-chamber records of confessions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

P.S.—The Governor-General informed me that Sheikh Hana had declared to him that rather than suffer longer the persecution of which he had been made the object, and which had well nigh ruined him, he would become a Mahommedan.

P. H.

Inclosure 5 in No. 141.

Mgr. Migirdich Ier to Consul Henderson.

(Traduction.)

M. le Consul, *Le* $\frac{8}{20}$ *Mars*, 1880.

DANS le village Hénié (peuplé par des Arméniens) du district de Djisir Chouhour, sous la juridiction d'Alep, un prêtre Arménien, Der Mésrop, vingt mois auparavant, par l'intention de s'approprier les biens de l'Eglise et la somme d'à peu près 200 livres d'argent comptant du Siége de Cilicie, le tout 400 ou 500 livres en total, confié à sa surveillance, a accepté en se réfugiant à la protection de France, la religion Latine, et pour jouer son rôle plus tranquillement à son aise il a travaillé par toutes ses forces de faire un mauvais instrument dans ses mains l'Arménien Cheikh Hénné, qui est l'un des Notables du village.

Ainsi sur cette même question vous avez bien voulu nous informer officiellement que les correspondances officielles ont eu lieu entre l'Ambassade de la Grande Bretagne et le Patriarcat Arménien de Constantinople, et en même temps vous nous avez demandé les détails de cette importante question, sur laquelle nous nous empressons de vous communiquer les informations que nous connaissons de cette affaire.

Il y a cinq ou six mois que, par la conspiration du prêtre Latin de Hénié, le susdit Cheikh Hénné a été accusé au Gouvernement Local, par le Consul de France d'ici, pour un prétendu crime comme avoir blasphémé au Gouvernement de France et au Pape de Rome. Immédiatement pour cette affaire le Procureur du Gouvernement a été envoyé à Djisir Chouhour, et après avoir bien examiné la question, il a trouvé l'accusation nulle et sans fondement, mais les justes protestations de Cheikh Hénné qu'il a protesté contre le prêtre Latin d'avoir voulu le tuer, et avoir déchargé un fusil de la même intention de sa propre maison, et le crime qui a voulu commettre le prêtre Latin a été constaté et vérifié par le même Procureur et présenté en rapport au Gouvernement d'Alep; et malgré tout cela, ses protestations n'ont trouvé aucune importance, et le prêtre est laissé jusqu'à présent sans punition par la forte influence des Consuls de France et d'Italie.

Le Consul de France et le prêtre Latin ne voulant pas se contenter avec tant de maux et de souffrances qu'ils ont causé physiquement et moralement à Cheikh Hénné, ils ont encore dernièrement renouvellé l'accusation, et transmis le procès à la Chambre d'Appel d'Alép, et malgré l'achèvement du délai que la loi ne permettait plus au renouvellement de la question, la Chambre invité Cheikh Hénné à se comparaître. Ce dernier se rend à la nouvelle invitation du Gouvernement. Sur la route lui accompagne un Arménien de la religion Latine, qui à leur arrivée à Alep; cet Arménien Latinisé, selon les instructions données par des Consuls et des prêtres, ne laisse pas Cheikh Hénné d'aller à la résidence Episcopale de sa nation Arménienne ou à la maison d'un des Arméniens de sa connaissance, et le conduit tout directement au couvent Latin, où les prêtres le gardent les portes fermées quelques jours, et usent tous les moyens possibles tantôt menaçant et tantôt promettant mille merveilles selon leur habitude pour le convaincre à se reconcilier et à embrasser la religion Latine.

Cheikh Hénné, dans l'état de tant d'événements, à peine trouve le moyen de s'arracher dans les mains des prêtres, et vient immédiatement à la résidence Episcopale Arménienne, où il nous a raconté les rôles que lui ont joués les prêtres Latins; alors nous lui avons donné le conseil de s'adresser tout directement au Gouvernement; ainsi il raconte son histoire au Vali et à la Chambre devant laquelle il doit comparaître, et il reçoit l'ordre de se présenter au jour indiqué; mais quand les prêtres et les Consuls s'informent que Cheikh Hénné s'est présenté à la Chambre, ils envoient tout de suite leurs drogmans, et annoncent à la Chambre d'Appel qu'ils désirent réconcilier avec Cheikh Hénné. Ainsi ils forment entre eux une Commission de Réconciliation, dont les membres sont des prêtres Latins, Consul d'Italie, Secrétaire-Chancelier du Consulat de France, et leurs drogmans, tous des Latins; ainsi nous ne pourrons savoir que par quel titre le chef des Affaires Etrangères du Gouvernement, Youssouf Djide, Catholique, s'en est présenté aussi. Cheikh Hénné, en voyant tous ces Latins, ne peut empêcher son étonnement à la manière de si drôle formation de cette Commission, et en protestant énergiquement il réclame la nécessité absolue d'y avoir des membres Arméniens de la part de sa nation; mais la Commission Latine ne fait aucune attention à ses justes protestations. Ainsi donc la Commission compose un Rapport à sa manière tout-à-fait faux, et dénué de vérité, dans lequel ils prétendent que Cheikh Hénné a avoué son blasphème au Gouvernement de France et au Pape. Après, la Commission explique son Rapport à Cheikh Hénné en un sens trop opposé. Cheikh Hénné ne connaissant ni lire ni écrire en aucune langue, quoique le Rapport est écrit en langue Arabe, on le fait lire à un Arménien, et Cheikh Hénné connaissant le contenu, ne le signé pas; mais la Commission à sa place met sa signature en caractère Arménien, et

légalise la signature avec leur témoignage au-dessous, comme Cheikh Hénné a lui-même signé le Rapport; ainsi que Youssouf Djide l'a aussi légalisé officiellement, et grâce à l'influence de ce fonctionnaire, ils réussissent d'envoyer dans la nuit à son village, mais en craignant que les Latins ne jouissent pas les mêmes rôles dans le village Hénié sur notre nation, nous avons expressément envoyé un prêtre de notre part, qu'il aura le soin de surveiller à la population Arménienne de Hénié.

Ainsi, M. le Consul, ne pouvant pas arracher les biens de notre nation et l'argent de notre Siége dans des mains du susdit prêtre Latinisé, de plus nos malheureux nationaux s'écrasent sous l'influence de Latinisme. Donc, en vous faisant l'histoire de ces tristes événements, nous voulons résulter que toujours le Latinisme et le Catholicisme exercent leurs influences sur les autres nations Chrétiennes.

En ce cas nous invitons votre attention, et ainsi la profonde attention du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté de la Grande et toute-puissante Bretagne sur notre nation Arménienne.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) MIGIRDICH I^er^, *Catolicos de Cilicie.*

Inclosure 6 in No. 141.

Affidavit purporting to have been made by Sheikh Hana.

(Translation.)

BEFORE this at the village of Kneya disturbances were raised to oppose the noble Roman Catholic priest Bonaventura Fernandez, Superior of the Roman Catholic Mission of that village, and they took place on the 4th and 5th October, 1879, at the instigation of Sheikh Hana, Chief of the Armenian community of Kneya. For this reason the French Consul at Aleppo prosecuted him judicially, and had him brought to Aleppo for immediate trial.

Sheikh Hana, who has signed his name in Armenian, and affixed his seal to this paper, has for some time sought forgiveness from the noble Roman Catholic priests for all these faults which he admits having committed. In person he came to the convent at Aleppo with his mind set on the pardon which he humbly implores from Father Bonaventura and the French Consul for all the offences of his village against the noble Roman Catholic priests and from all those who may complain of having received offence at that time. As the earnest wish of the noble priest Bonaventura and of the French Consul Chevalier Destrées are always in favour of the village of Kneya being protected from all possible disturbance of the repose and property of its inhabitants of every community, and as the only remedy is that Sheikh Hana should make this declaration in their presence and in that of an officer of the Local Government, promising good conduct for the future verbally and in writing, he therefore made this declaration quite spontaneously and without the advice or influence of any one, and he begged to be forgiven for all his past misdeeds. He confirms those words both verbally and in writing. He is willing and desirous to lead a peaceful life and make the whole village do so towards the noble Roman Catholic priests with all its communities.

As Chief of the Armenian community, he will take care to be friendly with all the Sheikhs of communities, and that there shall be in future no interference on their part with the Roman Catholic priests. To bind himself not to break his promise, he declares that in the event of his doing so he will undergo willingly the punishment not only of the future fault but also of the past offences committed on the 4th and 5th October, 1879, which he confessed in the presence of this Medjliss, all of these statements being made by him before the priest Bonaventura and the French Consul and the Local Government, who will all protect his village from future disturbances. These authorities accept his promises: the priest Bonaventura, M. G. Vigoureux representing the French Consul as his Chancelier, and Yussef Effendi Ged sent by the Governor-General. They all forgave Sheikh Hana in presence of two witnesses, Mr. Alfred Girardi and Rascalla Sola, according to his prayer for forgiveness of his own offences and those of the whole community of the Armenians at Kneya for himself and for them, begging pardon quite spontaneously, and assuming all future responsibility for him and them. He therefore accepts the absolution granted to him in the name of the French Consul by M. Vigoureux, who represents him, and on the part of the priests by Father Bonaventura, and the forgiveness of all his past offences.

The Consulate of France and the Local Government disclaim all right to annul this forgiveness in the hope that he will not again fall into such faults, and that he will always walk in harmony with other Chiefs to secure peace. He will remain an obedient Ottoman

subject. This paper is written in Arabic, which is understood by all present, including Sheikh Hana, read and confirmed. Sheikh Hana himself signed with his own hand in the Armenian language and affixed his seal. The above-mentioned witnesses and authorities also signed their names.

This paper was written at the Italian Consulate by mutual consent for the reconciliation of the parties the 18th March, 1880, Thursday 4 P.M.

(In Armenian.)
(Signed) SHEIKH HANA.*

(Signed) Fr. Bonaventura Fernandez.

Pour M. le Consul de France et par autorisation:
Le Chancelier sub,
(Signed) G. Vigoureux.

Par ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet:
Le Sec. Int. du Vilayet,
(Signed) Jn. Yed.
A. Girardi.
R. Sola.

No. 142.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 370.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, March 31, 1880.*

WITH reference to despatches addressed to myself and to your Lordship on the subject by Her Majesty's Consul at Erzeroum, I have the honour to transmit herewith a copy of a letter which I have received from the Armenian Patriarch, in which his Beatitude complains of the attitude assumed by the Ottoman authorities towards the Armenians at Keghi, and asks, in the name of justice and humanity, for my interference on their behalf.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Myr. Nercès to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le $\frac{15}{27}$ Mars, 1880.*

VOTRE Excellence n'ignore pas que les Arméniens de Keghi ont intenté un procès aux Beys Kurdes, leurs oppresseurs. Je viens d'apprendre que les autorités d'Erzéroum font ouvertement cause commune avec ces derniers, et foulent aux pieds les droits de la population Chrétienne, réduite aujourd'hui à la misère et au désespoir.

Votre Excellence a bien voulu s'intéresser tout particulièrement au sort des Arméniens de Keghi, et c'est ce qui m'encourage à faire appel aux sentiments de justice et d'humanité de votre Excellence en la priant de vouloir bien intervenir encore une fois auprès de qui de droit pour neutraliser la pression exercée par le Gouvernement d'Erzéroum sur les Tribunaux saisis du procès de Keghi.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) NERCÈS.

No. 143.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 377.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 1, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a letter which I have received from the Armenian Patriarch, complaining of the bad treatment of the Armenians of certain districts near Diarbekir by Kurdish Chiefs.

I inclose also copy of a note which I have addressed to the Sublime Porte on the subject, and have also requested Major Trotter to furnish me with what information he can as to the statements contained in the Patriarch's letter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* A blank space is left here in the original for Sheikh Hana's seal.—P. H.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

Mgr. Nerces to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le* $\frac{15}{27}$ *Mars*, 1880.

UNE lettre de Diarbékir en date du 26 Janvier (v.s.), et signée par des prêtres et les Notables Arméniens du district de Modgan, situé entre Moush et Bitlis, et contenant vingt-cinq villages. Ces Chrétiens sont cruellement opprimés par des Agas et Derebegs Kurdes. Dalo Moussa et Sahib exercent leur tyrannie dans le village de Marmant Ramazan à Nilch Hé et Tariz à Eghek, Noureé à Ergain, Kouté Hiugo à Gorghedni, et Hamidé à Aesau. Depuis la dernière guerre ces bandits ont dévalisé trente-cinq églises, tout en profanant les reliques des Apôtres Thadée et Barthélemy. Ces églises sont: Saint Talila à Homs, Saint Etienne à Markok, Saint Georges, à Parkhaud, Saint Serge à Imbel-Tchour, Saint Daniel à Kasgagh, Saint Georges à Zimet, Saint Jean à Roud, Sainte Vierge à Mezauk, Saint Toukh Manouga Sibzen, Saint Cyriaque à Nézin, Saint Théodore à Habontagh, Saint Siméon à Mery Tagh, Saint Georges à Hajpurdjen, Sainte Croix à Melzi, Saint Georges à Marmaut, Saint Jacques et Saint Georges à Poognod, Sainte Vierge et Saint Siméon à Harpi, Sainte Martiane, Sainte Vierge, et Saint Jacques à Shen, Saint Prodrome et Saint Georges et Merbyauk, Sainte Vierge à Medj Tzor, Saint Marouke à Denghed, Sainte Mariane à Erash, Saint Jacques à Harpouz, Saint Prodrome à Gorghedni, Sainte Vierge à Goutzked, Saint Jacques et Saint Georges à Gherkhon, un convent et une église à Gorvoud, etc. Ces églises ont été dépouillées de leurs ornements, de leurs livres, et de manuscrits rares sur parchemin. Les biens, l'honneur, et la vie des Chrétiens du district sont à la merci des Kurdes; les opprimés n'osent même pas protester à l'autorité locale, sûrs qu'ils sont de s'attirer la vengeance de leurs oppresseurs.

Une seconde lettre en date du 31 Janvier (v.s.) parle des maux subis par les Arméniens du district de Djabagh Tchour depuis la dernière guerre. Les Chrétiens des villages de Tchevlig, Ez, Takhrau Mudrag, Gheyd, Kadi Madrak, Tarbasson, et autres sont journellement opprimés par les Beys et les Chéiks Kurdes. Ces tyrans sont: Youssouf Kourshoud et Mahmed, fils de Suleiman Bey, le Cheik Ali, les Beys Mahmoud et Moustafa et Nedjib Bey et Tahir Agha, leurs cousins. Ils ont sous leurs ordres un nombre de voleurs et de brigands. C'est toute une association de malfaiteurs s'arrogeant le droit de vie et de mort sur les Arméniens. Ce sont eux qui ont assassiné l'architecte Arménien Ghazar. Abdul Djelil Molla, du village de Takhrou, a forcément converti à l'Islamisme six familles Arméniennes, en donnant à son fils comme épouse une nouvelle mariée; les autres femmes et filles ont été données à d'autres Turcs. Dans le village de Zhegel, Abdi Agha, tout en enlevant l'orge d'un Arménien, lui a coupé le nez, et Harsau et Ali ont coupé la main d'un autre Arménien. Dans le village de Kadi Madrak les Kurdes ont dévalisé et brûlé quarante-deux maisons. Dans une de ces maisons un Arménien, sa femme, et son enfant ont été la proie des flammes. Les Beys ont enlevé aux Arméniens des marchandises d'une valeur totale de 107,000 piastres; malgré les requêtes et les protestations de ces derniers, justice ne leur a pas été faite. Ces Chrétiens sont décimés, à l'heure qu'il est, par le glaive des Kurdes et une terrible famine.

Je m'abstiens de tout commentaire, M. l'Ambassadeur, et je laisse votre Excellence juger si ces faits sont conformes à l'esprit de justice et d'humanité qui a dicté l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Patriarche des Arméniens de Turquie,
(Signé) NERCÈS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

Sir A. H. Layard to Sawas Pasha.

M. le Ministre, *Constantinople, April* 1, 1880.

IT is with much regret that I have to call your Excellency's most serious attention to the accompanying statement, which appears to be made on trustworthy authority, as to the cruel and oppressive treatment which the Armenians in the district of Mogdan, Djabagh-Tchour, are subjected by the Kurdish Chiefs. It has been my painful duty to submit this statement to my Government, and I leave your Excellency to judge of the impression that it cannot fail to make upon them after the reiterated promises of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan that his Christian subjects shall be

treated with justice and receive his protection, and after the solemn Treaty engagements entered into by the Porte to this effect. Unless redress be given to those who have suffered, and their oppressors brought to condign punishment, and measures taken to prevent the repetition of such misdeeds as are described in the above-mentioned statement, the Porte must alone be held responsible for the consequences.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 144.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 387.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 6, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 150 of the 3rd February last, and to previous correspondence on the subject, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Colonel Wilson, giving an account of the manner in which he was received by the Turkish authorities at Angora, when on an official visit to that place to inquire into the complaints made by Mr. Binns against the Defterdar Husni Effendi, and of their reasons in giving him so unfriendly a reception.

I have called the attention of Sawas Pasha to the impropriety of the conduct of the authorities on this occasion, and to the want of proper courtesy and attention showed by them to Colonel Wilson.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 144.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 36. Confidential.)
Sir, *Constantinople, April* 1, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's telegrams of the 5th and 15th March last, relating to the case of the Defterdar of Angora, and at the same time to transmit copies of telegrams which I forwarded in cypher on the 14th and 16th March.

With reference to my statement that I had been received with marked coolness by the officials, and could not remain, I beg to inform your Excellency that no notice whatever was taken of my visit to Angora by the Turkish authorities until twenty-four hours after my arrival at that place, when the Governor-General sent his seal-bearer to call upon me; that my private visit to Kourchid Pasha was not returned by any one; that my official visit was returned by the Public Prosecutor, who is an officer of justice, and in no way a representative of the Government, and that none of the Turkish officials or gentlemen called upon me whilst at Angora, a very marked contrast to my reception in other towns in Anatolia. If any complaint had been made the answer would have been that I had arrived the day before I was expected; that the Vali for the last four months had been too ill to leave his room; that the Defterdar could not have been sent to call upon me; that the Mekhubjé was unwell, &c. The real object was to show every one in Angora that no importance was attached to my presence in the town by the Turkish officials, and so it was understood by the people. When I, at the same time, found that the Governor-General wished to draw me into a discussion as to whether I should first call upon the official staff of the vilayet, or they upon me, and that the Porte seemed to have taken no steps with regard to an inquiry, I thought that my continued presence in Angora might lead to further complications, and adopted the course mentioned in my despatch No. 35.

I must add that Kourchid Pasha during the interviews I had with him was pleasant and friendly, but that in official matters he seemed to be in the hands of his seal-bearer, who, I understand, is a Maronite Christian from Aleppo, with strong French sympathies.

The seal-bearer, who has been intriguing much in the matter, informed M. Tchetchian that the Governor-General was very anxious to get rid of the

Defterdar; but was afraid to do anything officially. This I think very likely, as the Defterdar has powerful friends at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 144.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, March 14, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 5th, I have called twice on the Governor-General; he has heard nothing of any Turkish Delegate and received no instructions to facilitate my enquiries. The Governor-General at first seemed ready to assist and he made a proposition which I accepted. He has now changed his mind and wishes me to adopt an improper course; I have refused, and said that if the original proposal be not carried out I shall leave Tuesday. Vice-Consul can hardly return here whilst the Defterdar remains in office.

Inclosure 3 in No. 144.

Substance of Telegram from Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, March 16, 1880.

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 15th, I have done all I can here and leave for Constantinople to-day, I have been received with marked coolness by the officials and could not remain.

No. 145.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 14.)

(No. 307.) *Constantinople, April* 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at Erzeroum and Adana, on subjects of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 145.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 11. Political.) *Erzeroum, March* 26, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to inclose you the translation of a letter which I have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, supposed to be written by the representatives of Keghi who are awaiting the settlement of their cases in Erzeroum. Since receiving it I have established its authenticity, and ascertained that it is one of many which have been written by the representatives of Keghi in the hope of attracting the attention of Her Majesty's Ambassador. Although there are one or two statements made therein which cannot be very well proved, yet the representation of their condition is described with tolerable accuracy, and the strain in which the letter is written may well be pardoned when it is considered how sorely the patience of these people has been tried.

In my despatches Nos. 3, 4, and 5 of 1879 and Nos. 1, 3, 6, and 9 of the present year I have alluded to these cases, and in No. 9 I have informed you of the last steps taken by me to push things on.

Since then I have called on Nafyz Pasha, the Inspector-General of Tribunals, who has owned to me that his influence is very small on the Tribunals. I cannot, therefore, expect very much from him.

To-day I had an opportunity of conversing with Ismail Bey, the new President of

the Istinaff Medjliss, who arrived here from Trebizond on the 19th February. Speaking to him of the four Beys who received sentence of one year's exile from the Criminal Medjliss, and who appealed on the 17th December to the Istinaff, he replied that on his arrival he found several very important cases requiring immediate settlement, whence he was obliged to place the Keghi cases aside for the moment. On afterwards examining them he found so many illegalities had crept in that he was obliged to recall the witnesses; a portion being now summoned for the 14th April, and the remainder fifteen days later; the date being fixed thus late to allow of the roads opening. He has assured me that there shall be no longer delay than is absolutely necessary, but that it is impossible for him to decide on the merits of the case until he has fully satisfied himself of the legality of the former sentence. I am of opinion, therefore, that for the present the progress of these cases can only be patiently watched.

It is to the state of the territorial cases of Khegi that I particularly wish now to draw your attention. None of these cases have been finished. All the representatives have for the moment resigned their suits, and most of them (Mehemet Chaoush among the number), having returned to their homes.

The suit undertaken by the village of Chen against Ismail Bey was abruptly and illegally terminated on the 11th instant, the President of the Bidayet Court informing the representative that he closed the case because it had been previously tried in years gone by, and had then ended in favour of Ismail Bey; wherefore, he argued, there was no use in trying it again. I have protested against this course to Nafyz Pasha, and Hussein Effendi has telegraphed the Commissioners, at the same time informing the Tribunals that neither he nor his coadjutor could attend any other cases so long as such conduct was permitted.

Nafyz Pasha informed me that the Judgment would be referred to Constantinople.

The temporary collapse of these lawsuits seems to me to be partly the result of carelessness on the part of the Turkish Commissioners in not placing complete evidence in the hands of the Tribunals, thus affording them an excuse for delay which they have not been slow to take advantage of. With regard to them I think that most certainly the time has come when pressure from the Porte is absolutely necessary to produce progress; for the Vali evidently does not feel himself justified in acting further in the matter, and Nafyz Pasha has declared himself next door to incapable.

The people will, I am sure, be very grateful if you can procure them speedy justice.

Consequent on my letter to the Vali, of which I sent you a copy last week, I beg to inform you that the Kaimakam of Keghi has been examined, but as further evidence is yet required, his examinations will not be over for another month. In the meantime Mehemet Bey is being sent from Erzeroum as Vice-Kaimakam in place of Suleiman Bey, of Terjan, who will be removed.

Colonel Norton, Inspector of Gendarmerie for Bitlis arrived here on the 11th instant, and left for his post on the 23rd.

Hamdi Bey, the Chief of the Gendarmerie for this city arrived here on the 10th; he seems to be an energetic and intelligent officer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 145.

Letter from Representatives of Keghi Christians in Erzeroum to their Countrymen in Constantinople.

(Translation.) *February* 2, 1880.

IT is known to you that we have long been in Erzeroum on behalf of the suffering people of Keghi; but in vain. There is no one to do us justice, whether Governor or Bishop, or other official. All labour to fill their own pockets, and for nothing else.

The Beys, who tyrannize over us, as you well know, gain to their side all the officers of the Government, and who can resist them? We were twenty; on account of poverty only five remain. We have not seen our daily food. Without 10 paras among us how can we carry on suits in Erzeroum? But we report to you our condition, that you may represent it to the benevolent Ambassador of Great Britain, hoping that his Excellency, for love of God and Christianity, will pity our helpless misery and try to get relief; for we are indeed slaves. We can neither return home nor conduct our suit here. In the morning we go to the Porte, and in the evening we

leave broken-hearted, and they never call us to hearing, and the tyrant Beys use towards us the most opprobrious language and violent menaces. Unless our just cause can have a hearing in Constantinople, know ye that neither property nor family will remain to any of you. We therefore commit the case to you, invoking through you the intervention also of his Holiness the Patriarch against our two ecclesiastical superiors, who, for their own gain disregard justice, and are parties against us.

We are utterly ruined. We pray you get help for us that we do not perish by starvation, and beg of his Excellency the Ambassador of Great Britain to secure protection for us by command of the Porte, or to call us to Constantinople, that we may plead our cause there.

Inclosure 3 in No. 145.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 12.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, March* 20, 1880.

MY attention having been called to the increasing distress in this city, I have since my return from Passin been examining into the matter, and have found it far worse than I had any idea of. In more than one case I found the people living on a black compound designated, indeed by the name of bread, but without any resemblance to it. An analysis of this substance shows that the principal ingredient is nevertheless wheat flour, highly tainted by "smut," which, though not absolutely harmful, is likely to cause dysentery if taken for long in any quantity.

On the 23rd instant I called on the Vali to communicate to him these matters, and to discuss some method of relief. His Excellency has called my attention to the state of the refugees in this city, whom he reports to be in a far worse state than any of the other inhabitants, by reason of their destitution, and now more especially because last month he received orders from the Sublime Porte to cut off the daily ration which had previously been supplied to them. I may mention that this step has caused very great discontent among the refugees, who are lamenting that they ever left their homes in Russia.

Yesterday I submitted a proposal to the Vali, to organize a Committee under my own presidency, and consisting of four members, two of whom are to be chosen by his Excellency, and the other two by me. This proposal has, I believe, been accepted. In the meantime I gave a first distribution yesterday morning to some 650 souls of all creeds, whose extreme poverty in most cases I could personally answer for.

The Armenians of Constantinople are working well for their countrymen here. I am informed that a telegram was received yesterday announcing a further donation of £ T. 700.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 145.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 12.)

Sir, *Adana, March* 25, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2 of the 20th January, I have the honour to report that I have received reliable information from Kaisaireh up to the 2nd instant. Hadji Raouf Bey was at Angora, and his case still unsettled.

2. With regard to despatch No. 11 of the 15th November, 1879, wherein I describe the discreditable state of the Government at Kaisaireh, my correspondent informs me that the Mouftetish Adrié of the Angora vilayet has been during the winter at Kaisaireh, and has succeeded in informing the Bedayet Mehkémé. Said Afgha's name was removed from the list of candidates, and the Protestants were allowed to put forward one of their community. This settles the vexed question as to the right of all non-Moslem communities to share privileges hitherto only enjoyed by Greeks and Armenians.

3. My informant states that thanks to a severe winter, and the watchfulness of Mousa Pasha, who commands the troops at Sivas, there has been security for life and property in the neighbourhood of Kaisaireh.

4. The above information corresponds with what I hear from other sources; and I

am glad to find that the Angora Mouftetish has been able to effect more than I anticipated. But I gather that the Idré Medjliss and the Government employés generally remain as when I left Kaisaireh, and that the changes have been in spite of the local authorities. That the Bedayet Mehkémé has been reformed is attributed to outside influence, and is probably due to your Excellency's representations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 5 in No. 145.

Vice-Consul Cooper to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 13.)

Sir, *Adana, March* 25, 1880.

HADJI AKIF EFFENDI, an ex-Defterdar of this province, and recently holding a high position in the Ministry of Finance, arrived here last week. The nature of his mission seems a secret, but he is making inquires into all kinds of subjects, and it is generally believed that he is entrusted with large powers for the examination of complaints against the Local Government.

2. Hadji Akif Effendi, as Defterdar of Adana, earned an honest reputation, but his rank scarcely seems to fit him for an Inspector into matters which concern as high a functionary as the Vali. Zia Pasha is still confined to the haren, and it is high time some check were placed on misgovernment here, but the sending of a subordinate to make semi-secret inquires is not likely to mend matters.

3. The Sublime Porte has declined to entertain a suggestion of Zia Pasha's for a novel way of taking the tithes, and is going this year to collect them itself. Zia Pasha's proposal was a very fair one, and would have relieved the farmers and peasants of most of the evils attendant on the present mode of collection.

4. In response to demands from Aleppo, the Adana authorities are urging the merchants to send grain to the former vilayet, and after some delay permission has been granted for the transport of grain by sea from one province to the other free of duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

No. 146.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 15.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, despatches which I have received from Captain Cooper, Captain Stewart, and Lieutenant Chermside, relating to affairs in Anatolia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 146.

Captain Stewart to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 2. Political.)

Sir, *Adalia, January* 16, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that this morning I was officially informed that Jemal Bey had handed in his resignation as President of the Bedayet Court.

2. I had given him the option of either fighting the matter out to the bitter end or else of at once resigning.

3. My reason for giving him this option was that not alone would little be gained by an inquiry, but also that I found an insuperable difficulty in inducing any Turk or Christian to come forward boldly with an accusation. They were all ready enough to state privately what he had done, but dreaded too much the revenge of this scoundrel to face him openly.

Their agreement was: "It is all well enough while you are here, but who is to

protect me once you are gone, and when this man, as is usual in Turkey, is again re-established in power."

4. I am aware that in taking up such a determined line of conduct, I took a deal of responsibility on myself; but as the inhabitants could not be induced to come forward, I am at a loss to see what else I could have done. In view of the probability of similar contingencies again occurring, would you kindly inform me whether you consider I was justified in the course I adopted.

5. I wish to express my thanks to Ali Riza Bey, the Imperial Emigration Commissioner, for the great assistance he gave me in this rather troublesome matter.

6. This Mutessariflik is in a terrible state. With the exception of the Mutessarif and one or two others, there is not an honest man in the Government. Bribery and corruption, not concealed, but openly proclaimed, are everywhere to be found. Justice is bought and sold as any commodity in the market. The prison forms a source of revenue to the Commandant of the Police and other officials. The prices to procure imprisonment or release vary from a few Medjidiehs to Turkish pounds. Should any one be noted for his wealth, trumpery cases are got up against him to ease him of some of his money. Both in the town and district there is but little, if any, security for life and property. Gangs of thieves and rascals are openly protected. Should any one be so ill-advised as to capture one of these protected rascals, he will most likely be imprisoned instead. The officials in the districts are in many cases creatures of Jemal Bey, and employed by him as instruments for extorting money from the wretched peasantry.

7. The Mutessarif is an honest but in every way inefficient man. He may be good enough to perform the nominal duties of Palace Chamberlain, but as a ruler he is wanting in experience, education, determination, vigour, resource, &c. Up to lately he has been the slave of Jemal Bey, and will always be in the hands of whoever is the most powerful in the place. The Cadi is, intellectually, quite unfit for his post. The Tijaret Reis is, I am informed, a drunkard. The Binbashee, or Head of the Police, is notorious for his rapacity and bribery. The Christian members are also no better, except in one or two instances.

8. This place is unfortunate in its Mutessarifs. The last one was removed for his rascality, and this one is quite incompetent. I would suggest his removal.

9. Although starvation stares them in the face from locusts, no move whatever has been made to destroy the eggs. I purpose to-morrow telegraphing to Konia to ask that measures be instituted for their destruction all over the west of this vilayet. Similar measures ought also to be instituted in the neighbouring vilayets.

10. I would suggest that the Vice-Consul here be put under my order. He has now to report to Smyrna, which would appear a rather roundabout way of getting business transacted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 2 in No. 146.

Captain Stewart to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 4. Political.)

Adalia, February 8, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that a well-attended and influential meeting was held here on the 27th January to select a Committee and decide what steps should be taken for the destruction of the locusts.

2. A Committee of twenty members, one half Christian, was appointed, and Ali Riza Bey was elected President.

3. This Committee has decided to call on each male throughout the Mutessariflik to find or purchase 4 okes of eggs. Children under 7 years, 2 okes. An oke of eggs to be valued at 5 piastres. As a check on robbery, all the eggs are to be sent here.

4. An effort was made to include women in this rating, but failed owing to the opposition of the Mahommedans, who stated that it was contrary to their religion and a disgrace to them to be asked to give the number of their women.

5. Several of the Monkhtars of villages have been called in, the matter explained to them, and orders given to set the people at once to work. Telegrams and messengers have been sent to the out districts, shops have been appointed in the town where the eggs will be purchased, and the Vali has been communicated with by telegraph with a view to having operations begun in the neighbouring Mutessariliks.

6. I have some hopes that the Committee will be successful. It is happy in its President, Ali Riza Bey, who is full of energy and enterprize.

7. I am afraid that in my last despatch I credited the Notables with a desire to hoard. No doubt some of them do so, but the larger number spend their money as easily as they get it. Their great object is to impress the neighbourhood with their hospitality, their style of living, their grandeur, power, &c. With this in view they keep open house, have a large staff of useless servants, a numerous harem, horses, &c. As they are unable to keep accounts they are robbed by their servants, and many are doubtless heavily in debt. Their chief aim in life is to eat, drink, and sleep, and intrigue for posts under Government, or else positions in the local Councils in order to increase their wealth by unlawful means and damage their enemies. The servants follow in the wake of their masters, are bribed to influence them, and in some cases to tyrannize over them by the intimate knowledge they have of their misdeeds. These remarks apply also, although, perhaps, in a somewhat limited sense, to the official class. Doubtless the officials are generally very underpaid, but if they were satisfied to live with less show and greater thrift they might, perhaps, be able to retain their character for honesty.

8. Lately I have spent a considerable time every day in the Government offices watching the process of collecting the arrears of taxes. It is melancholy and depressing to listen to the tales of robbery, bribery, and corruption that are unfolded. In some cases the arrears date back eight or more years. The debtor has been repeatedly called upon to pay, but has hitherto, by a judicious bribe, always managed to put off the evil day. Sometimes the tax called for has already been paid several times over to the head-man of the village. This official, instead of crediting the amount to Government, retains it for himself or his employer—some influential personage. In other cases a Notable has agreed to pay the taxes of a village on the understanding that he is to reap some advantage, getting, for instance, the monopoly of some local product. The peasants fulfil their share of the contract, but the Notable defers carrying out his from one year to another. Now, when called upon to pay, he tries to shirk all responsibility and to throw the burden on to the peasants. In other cases corn has been advanced by Government to relieve some temporary local distress. The Notable gets the corn consigned to him for distribution, and takes care to make a handsome profit out of the transaction. Many of the arrears are due by wealthy individuals, who, through their local influence, have delayed payment for years, and now find it excessively hard that Government should charge interest. Imams, derveshes, and other holy men are frequently to be found among this class. In other cases the money has been paid, but receipts refused and the peasant frightened away.

9. This gross laxity in the collection of taxes has been a terrible misfortune to the country. Not alone have the people been called upon to pay at once, and at a very unpropitious time, sums which ought to have been spread over a number of years, but they have also been taught to trust for avoiding payment to the venality, soft-heartedness, and indolence of the officials. The wholesome training, that on a certain day they will infallibly be called upon to pay sums for which they ought to make due preparation by work and self-denial, has been wanting; and what, perhaps, might have tended to improve has only confirmed them in their indolent, shiftless, and improvident mode of living, putting off to the morrow what ought to have been done to-day, and trusting to a happy accident or charity to save them from a threatened evil. This miserable state of mind was lately exhibited by the head men of some villages near here, who, when asked to take measures for the destruction of the locusts, replied, "Why should we toil; surely the Sultan will feed us?" At another village near Afiun Karahissar, they replied, "Why should we set to work to destroy the locusts? We have sufficient for our immediate wants, and they are welcome to the rest. Are we not told to make all guests welcome?"

10. As is to be expected, agriculture is in a very backward state. Large tracts of rich lands are left uncultivated or have gone out of cultivation, and the little that is done is worked in a most slovenly and superficial manner.

To account for this state of things, besides the natural indolence of the people, and in this neighbourhood the locusts, there is (1) the great insecurity of all property; (2) the scarcity of labour due to the numbers called away to the war; (3) the dearth of cattle; (4) the absence of all encouragement and education; (5) the high rate of interest, the mumafi, or fund formed some years ago by the peasants for mutual assistance, having long since found its way into the pockets of the Notables. I am

assured by old residents that since the time of the Crimean war the impoverishment of the people has been quite remarkable. That some twenty years ago there would have been no great difficulty in finding in most villages peasants in possession of 1,000 piastres ready money, but now it is doubtful if the whole village would be able to raise 100 piastres. This statement may be exaggerated, but there is no doubt that the condition of the peasantry has altered greatly for the worse.

11. As regards Jemal Bey, I was informed some days ago that he had declined being nominated as a candidate for the Idaré Medjliss. I have since heard that he has changed his mind, and is again intriguing to be returned. As he is originally from the Morea, the Morean Turks here support him. I have spoken to the Mutessarif, and informed him that it will be my duty to protest against the election. I have also written to the Vali, who will, I am sure, agree with me.

Should Jemal Bey's name appear in the nomination papers it is generally supposed that, although the bulk of the population hate and abhor him, they will through fear vote for him. This appears very unfavourable to the idea that liberal institutions, Parliaments, popular suffrage, &c., would benefit this country. So far the only result apparent from giving the people a vote has been to increase the influence of certain Notables, to raise up a class of needy and servile adventurers who might perhaps have done well enough in business, but find it both easier and more profitable to become members of Councils, to vastly increase the number of recipients of bribes, and to diminish, if not altogether remove, the sense of responsibility from the rulers. In a country such as this, where there is no patriotism, no public spirit, no moral courage, no leisured and monied class, and no education, it is hopeless to expect that the spirit of liberal institutions could possibly be understood, and that capable and honourable men would sacrifice their time to the public for the wretched salaries now given.

12. As for the Mutessarif, he is still infatuated with Jemal Bey and would, I am sure, be greatly pleased to see him returned. As a Governor he is utterly incompetent, constantly bemoaning the shortcomings of the officials, but without the strength of will to correct them, and always seeing difficulties where none really exist. He has frequently sent in his resignation.

13. I hear the public accounts are in an almost hopeless state of confusion, which is not to be wondered at considering the frequent changes of officials, and that the chief clerk, or acountant, is hardly competent to perform a sum in addition.

14. As an instance of the extent to which bribery has been carried, there are men hanging about the public offices here, whose business it is to negotiate the bribes required by the officials—in other words brokers in bribery.

15. One of the chief scoundrels here, the Binbashee, or Chief of the Police, has just received orders transferring him to Rhodes, where it is to be hoped he will not find such a scope for his talents.

16. As for the Greek population, I am unable to speak in its favour. They are a selfish, mean, spiritless and untruthful race. There is little or nothing they will not do for gold. Their one rule of conduct appears to be "let all be sacrificed, let justice, truth and straightforward dealing be by words, provided a few piastres can be made. Being more cunning than the Turks they are frequently the moving spirits in many of the intrigues, robberies and other injustices that occur. They talk of what they suffer under the Turkish régime, but I am convinced they would be the first to regret any change for the better. Few know Greek or have any desire to know it. As for their papas, or priests, the less said about them in the interests of religion the better.

17. Altogether, from the little I have seen of the Mahommedans and Christians in Anatolia, I think they might fairly be divided into two classes, namely, those who rob and those who are robbed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 3 in No. 146.

Captain Stewart to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 5. Political.)

Sir, *Adalia, February* 13, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith a scheme of the police force required for the Mutessarifliks of Isbarta and Buldur, with some other details as suggested to

me by residents on the spot. The numbers are supposed to be amply sufficient for all requirements.

2. These numbers are largely in excess of what is now sanctioned, but it is notorious that the force at present is far too weak. A force of 216 police does not appear excessive for a population of 57,105 males—the poplation of the Sandjak of Isbarta. The present police force is 120. Similar for Buldur with a population of 37,019, the number of zaptiehs required is 175 as against 70 at present.

3. In general, as regards officers I would suggest a Commandant, or Alai Bey, for the whole of the vilayet, on a salary of say £T. 300 a-year. In most Sandjaks a Binghashee salary £T. 300, a Yuzbashee salary £T. 180, and Mulazim salary £T. 120. All these officers to be mounted. These salaries to cover all expenses, such as uniform, buying and keep of horses, &c.

4. As for zaptiehs, I would suggest that a foot zaptieh should receive 250 piastres and a horse zaptieh 500 piastres a-month, this sum to cover the keep of his horse. Bread allowances, &c., to be done away with. I would also propose, with reference to the mounting of the men, that each man on joining the mounted branch should be required to pay a certain sum into a common fund to be established at the head-quarters of each vilayet for the purchase of horses. On his retirement from the service a certain proportion of this money might be returned to him. A fund of this kind is established in every native cavalry regiment in India, with, so far as I know, very beneficial results. Clothing and arms of course to be found by Government.

A corporal, or onbashee, to receive 50 piastres more than a zaptieh, and chauch, say 50 piastres more than an onbashee. It is probable that with these, or somewhat similar rates of pay, honest and trustworthy men might be got without much difficulty. As so much depends upon the officers, it is almost needless to remark they ought to be most carefully selected. Hafiyés, or detectives, men selected for their special qualifications, should receive special rates of pay.

6. The present rates of pay in the Vilayet of Konia are as follows:—

Foot Zaptiehs (Piade).

	Pay per Month.	In lieu of Bread Ration.
	Piastres.	Piastres.
Zaptieh	76	44
Onbashee	81	45
Chauch	98	45
Mulazim (Second Lieutenant)	137	45
Mulazim Evvel (Lieutenant)	225	90
Yuzbashee (Captain)	362	90
Binghashee (Major)	725	555

Horse Zaptiehs (Sowari).

	Pay per Month.	Bread Allowance, Keep of Horse.
	Piastres.	Piastres.
Zaptieh	88	250
Onbashee	100	250
Chauch	120	250
Mulazim	137	250
Mulazim Evvel	225	325
Yuzbashee	360	325
Alai Bey	2,000	..

These salaries are paid in beshlik, exchange 118 to 126 to the lira.

6. At present the number of officers at the different head-quarters appears fixed by no rule, and to be quite a matter of chance. Here, besides the binghashee, there is a yushashee and two mulazims; at other places there is, perhaps, double this number, with two or three binghashees. With respect to the number of officers, I should not be inclined to make any hard and fast rule; experience can only decide the requirements of different places. A proper scale of pensions for officers and men with enforced retirement after a certain age is also requisite.

7. The police force in this sandjak consisted until quite lately of 120 men, but this number has been now reduced, probably for economical reasons, by 15. It is said the sandjak would require at least 250.

8. As the summer is the season during which most of the roadside robberies occur, "khûr serdari," or patrols, are raised for so many months each year, to watch over certain frequented roads. As these men are only temporarily employed they should get a higher rate of pay, or perhaps what would be perhaps still better service is that force should be obligatory to getting positions in the permanent force as vacancies occur.

9. The police force for this vilayet is said to have numbered, some time ago, 1,050 men. If these men were well armed, well paid and officered, I do not see why this number, or but a small increase to it, should not be sufficient for this country, where as a rule the population is so quiet, provided always that the general government is conducted with some vigour and intelligence, and that the officials are of a somewhat different stamp to the Adalia Mutessarif, who lately publicly thanked a notorious robber for a murder he had committed. With an improved government it would even cause me no great surprise if it was found that a smaller number would answer all purposes.

10. With reference to the official numbers of zaptiehs, it is improbable that the numbers charged for could be shown. There is, I am told, an order requiring a monthly muster, but this order, like must other regulations and laws in Turkey, is more honoured in the breach than the observance.

11. I am happy to inform you that the measures taken for the destruction of the locusts appear likely to be successful. Lately, I am informed, 800 okes of eggs have been received, representing about 34,000,000 of locusts. There has been some difficulty in deciding how the eggs were to be destroyed, religious scruples preventing the people from allowing them to be burnt. It was finally decided to crush the shells and throw the eggs into the sea.

12. There is a report that the cattle disease has broken out in this neighbourhood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 4 in No. 146.

Scheme for the Police Force in the Sandjak of Isbarta.

District.	Number of Foot Zaptiehs.	Horse Zaptiehs.	Officers.
Town of Isbarta and vicinity	15 for prison 5 hafiye (detectives) 5 mubetjee (night watchmen) 15 patrols 35 for five Derbents .. A per-centage of 1 in 10 to be non-commissioned officers.	.. 20 .. 10 for five Derbents ..	1 Binghashee. 1 Writer. 1 Yuzbashee. 1 Mulazim. ..
Caza of Egirdir, with the Nahiyes of Agrós, Bavalo, and Barla	20	9	..
Rodomos Derbent	5	2	..
Yalevatsch Caza, with Nahiye of Hoiran	16	7	..
Karaghatsch Caza, with Nahiye of Auehehr	16	7	..
Olúborlow Caza	10	4	..
Karaghatsch Nahiye	4	6 (two of these to be used as escort for the post)	..
Tuhi Boghaye Derbent.. ..	4	1	..

The Derbents are police stations in certain quarters of the town or along the chief roads.

For the six summer months an additional force of 20 Khur Serdari, with an officer, would be required.

Total permanent force—	
Foot	150
Horse	66
Officers—1 Binghashee, 1 Yuzbashee, 1 Mulazim, 1 Writer.	
Population	37,105 males
Present force—	
Horse	70
Foot	60

Police Force required for Büldur Sandjak.

District.	Foot Zaptiehs.	Horse Zaptiehs.	Officers.
Town and district of Buldur	12 for prisons 4 nubetjee 5 hafiye 15 patrols 21 for three Derbents	16 6 for three Derbents	1 Yuzbashee. 1 Mulazim. 1 Writer. .. ..
Aglesson Nahiye ..	6 16 for two Derbents	5 2 for two Derbents	.. ..
Erlen Nahiye	5	5	..
Karaghatsch Caza	10	10 (2 escort for post)	..
Tefenny Caza, with Nahiyes of Kemer and Gölkissar	14	11	..
For two Derbents	10	3	..

During the summer months 20 Khur Serdari, with an officer, would be required.

Total permanent force—	
Foot	121
Horse	58
Officers—1 Yuzbashee, 1 Mulazim, 1 Writer.	
Population	37,019 males
Present force—	
Horse	40
Foot	30

(Signed) D. H. STEWART, *Captain,*
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul, Konia.

Inclosure 5 in No. 146.

Captain Stewart to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 6. Political.)

Adalia, February 21, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the Mutessarif of this place has to-day sent in his resignation.

2. I have already in previous despatches brought to your notice the great incompetence of this official and how completely he is under the evil influence of Jemal Bey.

3. I am convinced as soon as I and Ali Riza Bey leave, the public business must speedily relapse into its former miserable condition, unless there is a change of Governors.

4. The Mutessarif has already frequently sent in his resignation without its being accepted.

5. As it is so important to get rid of him, I would hope you would kindly bring your influence to bear on the authorities at Stamboul to have it accepted.

6. I am under orders to leave for Sivas where I am due about the 17th or 18th March.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 6 in No. 146.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 2. Political. Confidential.)

Adana, February 9, 1880.

Sir,

IN his despatch dated Tehran, 30th July, 1879, Mr. Thomson mentions Alexandretta as the probable Mediterranean terminus of the Diarbekir-Aleppo Railway. I cannot speak from personal acquaintance, but from all I hear Alex-

andretta does not appear to be the most convenient port for any system of railways which rely for their support on the trade of Kurdistan, Mesopotamia, and Aleppo.

Alexandretta is an open roadstead; the town itself is excessively unhealthy, whilst the Beilan Pass in its immediate rear is of such abruptness as to render the construction of a railway across it expensive and difficult.

2. It is highly improbable that land transport from the west to Persia viâ Mesopotamia will ever compete successfully with water carriage by the Persian Gulf, and whatever port is established on the Gulf of Scanderoon it ought to be adapted to the trade of Eastern Anatolia as well as that of Kurdistan and Aleppo.

The Mediterranean trade of those places now passes through Messina and Alexandretta, ports without harbours, where shipping has to be loaded from lighters, and where the land along the coast is exceedingly unhealthy for the greater part of the year. These scalas have risen to importance from their proximity respectively to the Gulch Boghas (Cicilian Gates) and Beilan Pass, but should trade be diverted from those routes there is nothing in either Messina or Alexandretta to induce traffic to make a detour in order to regain them.

3. The Tchokour Ova (Cicilian Plain) and Gulf of Scanderoon are encircled by high and precipitous mountains on two sides of an irregular triangle, the apex of which is at the gorge of the Teihoon (Pyramus) below Marash, and the base of which rests on the sea at Mercina and Alexandretta. The Taurus forms the north-west side and the Ghinour Dagh the south-east. Within the triangle thus formed is a small group of mountains parting the Teihoon from the Gulf of Scanderoon; this group known as the Djebel Missis consists of broken hills of slight elevation which can be easily traversed in almost any direction.

4. Four practicable passes lead from the interior to the lowlands lying along the Gulf of Scanderoon. From Anatolia the Taurus is crossed by the Gulch Boghas (Cicilian Gates) debouching on Tarsus and Adana, and the Nadjin route coming down into the Tchokour Ova (Cicilian Plain) at Sis. From Marash and Diarbekir the Ghinour Dagh is crossed by the Bagtche Pass opening out at Osmanieh, and from Aleppo the Beilan Pass leads to Alexandretta.

5. From time immemorial the great route from Syria to Constantinople, passing through Adana and Tarsus, has gone up into the interior of Asia Minor by the Gulch Bogha (Cicilian Gates). This pass derives its name from a narrow gorge some 35 miles north of Tarsus, through which the path ascends in crossing a spur of the Bulgar Dagh, which separates the lowlands of Tarsus from the Valley of the Bosanti. After traversing this spur the track falls into the valley at Bosanti Hair, and then follows up the course of the Ak Su, or Bosanti, to the watershed, and gains the open country north of the Taurus near Eregli.

6. The passage of the Taurus by a railway will probably from want of funds for many years be simply a project, but there seems no obstacle to the path of the main line from Constantinople to Damascus being at once roughly approximated. This line must pass round the head of the Gulf of Scanderoon, and to avoid crossing not only the main range of the Taurus but also the tangled knot of mountains which is formed by the junction of the Taurus, Anti Taurus, and Ghinour Dagh, would have to descend into the Cicilian Plain and pass out over the Ghinour Dagh into the valleys running down towards Aleppo and the Euphrates.

7. A railway coming from the interior of Anatolia would probably follow the existing road down from Eregli to Bosanti Hair, but then instead of crossing the Gulch would try and find some outlet to the plain by the valleys which run towards the Seihoon and would come out into the open country a little to the north of Adana.

8. Some eight years ago a party of engineers were sent by the Porte to lay out a railway from the Gulf of Scanderoon to the Euphrates. The engineers selected Yarmourtalik in the Bay of Ayas as their starting point, and actually traced a line thence over the Ghinour Dagh by the Bagtche Pass. One of the engineers engaged on this work, who has also examined the Ghinour Dagh north and south, tells me that the gradients by this route are much lighter than in any other pass, that a railway is quite feasible, and that once over the Bagtche Pass the command is gained of the open country towards the Euphrates and of the valleys running into the Syrian plains.

9. A railway debouching on the Cicilian Plain near Adana could either be carried straight to Yarmourtalik on the Ayas Bay or taken across the Tchokour Ova to Osmanieh at the foot of the Bagtche Pass.

In either case both the Seihoon (Adana River) and the Teihoon (Pyramus) would have to be bridged, but the detour to Yarmourtalik, though adding to the distance, would be fully compensated by bringing the interior into direct railway communication with the Mediterranean.

10. The Karamanian and Syrian coasts are singularly deficient in good harbours, but a natural one exists at Ayas Bay, in the Gulf of Scanderoon, and though its claims have not met with much notice in Europe, local attention is steadily being directed towards it as the future port of this part of Asia. Some expense would have to be incurred in running out landing stages, but before many years railways running from Anatolia and Syria would tap the caravan routes, and Yarmourtalik would be doing a great part of the work now done at Alexandretta and Messina.

11. If it be determined to make Ayas Bay the Mediterranean terminus of a railway, the section across the low country between the Taurus and Ghinour Dagh might be at once laid out. And if in accordance with Mr. Thomson's suggestion the main line be solidly constructed, there is no reason why a network of lighter railways should not intersect the Cilician Plain. With the exception of the two bridges above mentioned over the Seihoon and Teihoon, there is no necessity for expensive work. The plain is generally level or in such slight undulations that by careful tracing no cuttings nor heavy embankments would be necessary. The floods are confined to the lowlands along the two rivers, and the few nullahs which cut the plain are rarely more than 6 feet deep or 15 yards wide. The soil is a light alluvial deposit, but stone for building purposes is found in abundance on the hills.

The Tchokour Ova is of great fertility, which, with a little care in the matter of irrigation, could be greatly increased, and the transport of grain, cotton, &c., would insure work for the railway. The Taurus are rich in metals, and a few years ago coal was worked in the district north of Adana. This coal was used for some time in the cotton mills of Adana, but ultimately given up owing to expense of transport and indifferent working at the mines.

12. In this despatch the advantages of Ayas Bay have hitherto been simply treated with reference to a Mediterranean railway terminus; but there is another, and to England very important, reason, why the harbour of Ayas should be attentively considered.

In the event of England being required to fulfil her engagements with regard to the defence of the Armenian frontier, it might happen that the Black Sea ports were not available for the disembarkation of an army; and that in order to collect an army at Sivas or Diarbekir, the troops would have to disembark on the Mediterranean coast.

Up to the present it has been supposed that the troops to be concentrated at Sivas would be landed at Messina, and marched by the Gulch Boghas (Cilician Gates) and Kaisarieh; those wanted at Diarbekir would be disembarked at Alexandretta and moved up by Aleppo.

These roads are wide apart, and that by Aleppo makes a long detour. Formerly it was taken for granted that the wild country between them was impassable, but from latest observations such does not seem to be the case. It will probably be found that to march troops from Ayas to Diarbekir by the Bagtche Pass, is shorter and better than from Alexandretta by Aleppo; whilst it now appears that an army would move more easily on Sivas from Yarmourtalik (Ayas Bay), by Sis, Hadjin and Azizieh, than from Messina by the Gulch Boghas and Kaisarieh. Of course it is presumed that the march in either case is not in the presence of an enemy, and that the troops are hurrying up as soon as disembarked to join the army assembling for the defence of the Armenian frontier.

14. Immediately behind Ayas Bay there is open ground rising to the Djebel Missis hills. This ground is still fairly valued, and in the old days must have been well supplied, as there are extensive ruins of former towns. The coast is healthy, and at Kurd Kulak * there is excellent camping ground on the post track between Adana and Aleppo. Kurd Kulak is a small village built within ruined walls, and is a point of importance as it commands the narrow belt of land between the Teihoon and the Gulf of Scanderoon, over which all the tracks leading east and west pass to Missis Bridge.

15. My reasons for preferring the Sis Hadjin route through the Taurus to the

* Kurd Kulak to Ayas .. .. 11 miles.
" Yarmourtalik .. .. 14 "
" Missis .. .. 17 "
" Osmanieh .. .. 31 "
" Adana .. .. 35 "
" Alexandretta .. .. 42 "

Gulek Boghas (Cilician Gates), are that the road itself is easier; that from Sis to Azizieh it runs through a well-watered and wooded country, where the climate is better than that of the plains of the interior, and that the greater part of the distance is already traversed by wheeled conveyance. The most difficult part of the route, that between Hadjin and Sis, is already attracting the attention of the Turkish authorities, and an attempt is to be made this year to make it available for carts. The passes on this line are easier than that of the Gulek Boghas, the steepest ascent being a few miles north of Hadjin, where the road in some 3 miles ascends 1,500 feet. But this ascent is even now used by carts, and the gradients could be considerably reduced by retracing the lower part of the road.

16. Roads could be constructed with very slight expense from Missis, either direct to Yarmourtalik, or by Kurd Kulak. The post track from Aleppo to Adana crosses Teihoon by the old Roman bridge, which though partially destroyed by the Turks when retiring before the Egyptians, is still passable for carriages, and could easily be restored, whilst pontoon bridges could be thrown across the Teihoon at almost any point in its course through the Tchokour Ova.

The most trying part of a march from Ayas Bay to the interior would be that across the Tchokour Ova (plain), from Missis to Sis; but if taken before the hot weather sets in this would be passed in three or four marches (40 miles).

17. Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., has during the past summer made himself thoroughly acquainted with the Ghiaour Dagh, and can give any necessary information regarding its various passes. Ayas Bay has for many winters been visited by the ships of Her Majesty's Navy, consequently the advantages of its harbour and the facilities for landing troops in its neighbourhood must be well known to the Admiralty. I believe that among the Foreign Office archives there are Reports from Major Sadler, 47th Regiment, who was employed in Upper Syria at the time of Ibrahim Pasha's advance into Anatolia, and which would probably give some interesting details as to the district round the head of the Gulf of Scanderoon.

18. In conclusion, I venture to suggest that Yarmourtalik, or Ayas Bay, would be a better Mediterranean port for the Grand Trunk Railway joining Asia Minor and Syria, and that from a military point of view it would form a more convenient landing-place and dépôt for an army assembling in Armenia and Kurdistan, than either Alexandretta or Messina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 7 in No. 146.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 3. Political.)

Adana, February 11, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward the French translation of a letter which I received on Sunday, the 8th instant. It was brought from the prison, and on inquiry I found that the facts therein stated were correct, and that five poor inhabitants of Adana had been arrested the previous Monday, the 2nd February, and not allowed to communicate with their friends till Saturday, the 7th.

The men's names were:—
(1.) Kurkjitashioglou Hadji Georgaki, a Greek, of Kaisarieh.
(2.) Sava Kanaroglou, a Greek, of Kaisarieh.
(3.) Loutfi Effendi, a Hodja.
(4.) Hadji Veli Effendi, Moslem.
(5.) Vauli Ahmet Effendi, Moslem.

Their offence, having signed a petition last year against Zia Pasha. Late on the 9th they were told they would be sent away from Adana, and early the following morning they were sent off under escort, the first to Aleppo, the other four to the interior of Anatolia.

2. I called the same day on the Vali, and asked his Excellency if the facts were as above stated, and Zia Pasha replied to the following effect:—

Last year, owing to representations made against his administration, Akif Pasha had held an inquiry, which resulted in Zia Pasha being exonerated from all blame. Subsequently the Grand Vizier sent an order that certain of those who had signed the petition against the Vali should be brought to trial and exiled. The above-mentioned

five men were accordingly arrested, and were waiting trial when Zia Pasha, hearing that some students intended to attempt a rescue of the Hodja (Loufti Effendi), and fearing a riot, his Excellency had taken the precaution of sending the prisoners out of Adana. Their case would be tried in the Courts here, and the decision forwarded to the exiles.

I pointed out that it was a very strong measure to arrest five men, keep them a week in prison, and then send them out of the country without trial. Zia Pasha said that he was responsible for the tranquillity of his Government, and must take precautions to prevent disturbance.

3. I believe such a thing as a riot against Government is unheard of in Adana, and the five poor men who are sent away are not sufficiently influential to have stirred up one. The population of Adana is very mixed, every race and creed in Western Asia being represented; and though they live quietly enough together in ordinary times, they would never combine against the authorities except under extreme provocation. In addition to the zaptiehs 100 regular infantry are quartered in the town, so that an attack on the prison could scarcely be feared.

I am afraid the motive for the exile of these unfortunate men must be traced further back. In a former despatch, Political, No. 17, of the 10th December, 1879, I have mentioned that Zia Pasha's rule here had been marked by arbitrary measures and doubtful transactions. The events referred to were reported on by Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., in a despatch to Mr. Henderson dated the 25th June, 1879; and though Zia Pasha has, to all appearances, come out scatheless from the inquiry conducted by Akif Pasha, a good deal of ill-feeling has been left behind.

A fortnight ago a fresh petition was found against the Vali, and amongst the signatures was that of the Bash Kiatib, a confidential clerk, whose defection the Vali had not suspected. This has apparently thoroughly roused Zia Pasha's resentment, and, in order to strike terror into the minds of the population, he has seized and sent off the five men who left yesterday morning.

4. The Law Courts in Adana have lately been giving more than usual dissatisfaction, and the Kagageker, who is Kadi, told me that he had sent in his resignation, as it was impossible to execute justice. It is with great reluctance that I have been forced to believe that the Vali is responsible for a great part of the miscarriage of justice. Zia Pasha is the only Turkish official I have ever seen capable of doing good service to his country. He has been, and still is, pushing on the construction of roads, his ideas for the advancement of the district under his charge are full of promise; but as I have become better acquainted with the workings of Government in this vilayet, I have seen that all who oppose the Vali come to grief, that power is unscrupulously used when it suits, whilst at other times the independence of the Law Courts is loudly proclaimed.

5. Zia Pasha is suffering from wretched health, and all about him are terribly afraid. He is subject but to slight restraint from independent influence, as the Persian Consul has, unfortunately, but the most distant relations with him, and the breakdown of justice in the Dingwall case has deprived me of any influence I might previously have exerted.

On arrival here I attempted to establish good relations with Zia Pasha, and, had the Dingwall case been brought to a satisfactory conclusion, believe that English influence might have been beneficially exercised in this province. Now I am afraid that, freed from all restraint, Zia Pasha's rule will, from day to day, become more arbitrary, and that the only chance for a better state of things in this vilayet lies in his removal from Adana.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 8 in No. 146.

Letter from Prisoner complaining of Zia Pasha.

(Traduction.)

Honorable Bey,

QUELQUES-UNS de nous pendant le jour, et quelques-uns pendant la nuit ont été appelés au Bidayète Mühkémé et Adana le 21me jour de ce mois, c'est-à-dire Lundi, et on nous a demandé si nous avions des signatures dans les papiers et accusations qu'on avait faits pour Zia Pacha; avez-vous subi un Istintac? Avec ces demandes on nous a mis tous les cinq séparément en prison des criminels, et non-seulement

qu'on n'a pas laissé allumer du feu en cet hiver rigoureux, ni la lumière pour éclairer l'endroit; mais on ne nous a pas même permis d'écrire ou faire comprendre notre position aux personnes qui étaient nécessaires, et deux jours avant on nous a mis tous les cinq ensembles dans une galerie (kovouch) et on a permis d'allumer le feu, mais on n'a laissé personne entrer chez nous. Nous subissons grand'peine à donner une requête et nous restâmes enfermés douze heures dans le kovouche, et nous y restâmes jusqu'au matin misérablement. Il est évident que ces sortes de traitements est tout-à-fait contre la réforme, contre la civilisation, et contre Kanoni-essassi; avec cela nous autres nous ne sommes pas des condamnés, et Vali Pacha n'a aucun droit de nous mettre en prison; jusqu'à ce qu'on nous condamnent on a droit de nous demander des garants pour nos personnes, que quand le Gouvernement nous demande pour y être présent; encore à cela n'ont-ils pas droit? car nous autres ayant tant soit peu des propriétés dans cette ville, nous sommes connus par tout le monde. Et jusqu'à ce jour personne ne s'est présentée de la part du Vali Pacha comme un Vékil pour être jugé avec nous, car c'est lui (le Vali) qui nous fait le procès, qui est notre adversaire, et on ne nous a fait aucun Istintac publiquement nous sommes restés sous les griffes d'un tyran (zouloumdar). Nous restâmes dans un état tellement misérable que celui qui ne voit pas par ses propres yeux et celui qui n'entend pas par ses propres oreilles ne le croiera jamais. Notre prière de votre Excellence est qu'en examinant la chose complétement quand vous la trouverez juste; la destitution de Zia Pacha qui étant mercenaire pour tout le monde, son existence une heure de plus ne sera pas digne, est resté à la pitié et à la bienveillance de votre Excellence. Mes quatre camarades n'ont pas osé signer craignant que le Vali les mettrait dans les prisons des assassins, s'il entendait une pareille signature; car le Muddaiyi-oumoum et Mufettichi Adliyé, craignant le Vali Pacha, n'accomplissent pas leurs devoirs. Nous avons donné une requête à Muddaiyi-oumoum et nous n'avons vu aucun résultat, aucune démarche. Votre serviteur me confiant seulement à votre pitié et à votre attention, je m'adresse à vous. En comprenant ces choses-là pour les mettre en exécution ces prières nous vous prions en même temps pour notre salut; dans tous les cas les ordres sont à votre Excellence.

(Signé) ———, *un des Prisonniers.*

La Prison d'Adana, le 26 *Kianoun-sani*, 79.

Inclosure 9 in No. 146.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 6. Political.)

Adana, February 18, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that this morning the Armenian Protestant pastor called to introduce a Turk named Yoghurn Oglou Mustafha, who carried letters from the American missionaries at Marash, showing that the bearer had six years ago changed his religion from Mohametism to Christianity, and that, in consequence, the local authorities refused to allow him to remain in Marash.

2. Mustafha states that he had been originally taken as a prisoner from Marash to Aleppo, thence moved to Constantinople, where, owing to the exertions of the British Ambassador, he had been liberated, and that he had subsequently been working in Smyrna, but this winter, wishing to see his home again, he had returned to Marash. The American missionaries thus received him, while application was made to Said Pasha, the Vali of Aleppo, for permission for Mustafha to settle in his own house.

Mustafha's wife and children are Protestants; the wife lives in Marash, and both relations and friends were willing that he should return home, but no satisfactory reply could be obtained from Said Pasha, and the Government at Marash would not allow him to remain without express permission. After staying four weeks with the missionaries, Mustafha had been again obliged to leave Marash, and fearing to go to Aintab or Aleppo, where he was known, had come here partly in search of work, and partly in hopes that through the British Vice-Consulate he might be sent to Cyprus.

3. Mustafha bears an excellent character from the Rev. G. F. Montgomery, the American missionary; six years' exile show that his conversion is no pretence, and, though very badly off, he does not beg.

I told him that I thought, owing to the absence of fanaticism in Adana, he might live here unmolested, and this afternoon I spoke of the case to the Vali. Zia Pasha hinted at their being some risk from the Mollahs. Personally, I have not any anticipations of religious persecution in Adana, unless it be stirred up by Government intrigue, but I am not at all sure, under the present aspect of affairs, that authority would be actively exerted for the protection of the convert. Zia Pasha is in bad odour with the Mollahs, and a show of fanaticism might help to regain their support.

4. I am bringing the above facts to your notice as the case might be considered one in which, if religious liberty is to be extended throughout the Ottoman Empire, the authority of the Sultan might be exerted to restore Mustafha to his house in Marash.

I have reported the arrival of Mustafha to Mr. Henderson at Aleppo, as he has probably cognizance of the case.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 10 in No. 146.

Captain Cooper to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 7. Political.)

Adana, March 5, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3, Political, of the 11th February, I have the honour to report that Hadji Georgahi Kurkjibashioglou, one of the five men exiled without trial on the 10th February, has returned to Adana.

According to his statement, he was conveyed at his own expense, but under escort, to Aleppo, where, after he had been some days, Said Pasha, the Vali, informed him that, in accordance with orders from Constantinople, he was to return to Adana. Hadji Georgahi accordingly returned, and is now living at home waiting trial.

2. Telegraphic orders were also sent from Constantinople for the return of the other four exiles, who are now at Nigdeh, in the Konieh Vilayet, but they decline to come back, dreading further arbitrary treatment, and demand trial out of the Adana Vilayet.

If these five men are to be brought to trial for having made false statements against Zia Pasha, the Court ought to be entirely independent of the Vali, and such a Tribunal does not exist in this Vilayet.

3. Zia Pasha is suffering from very bad health; he has been confined almost continuously to the harem for the last three weeks, and when I last saw him a fortnight ago he was in bed and utterly unfit to do business. Yesterday his Excellency sent his doctor to tell me he was improving, but from what I hear he is still quite unfit to attend to worrying work, and his extreme excitability renders it impossible that he can treat with impartiality such a case as this of the exiles. Unluckily, in spite of his illness, Zia Pasha will not even temporarily resign the conduct of affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 11 in No. 146.

Lieutenant Chermside to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 2. Confidential.)

Diarbekir, February 9, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that Baker Pasha has permitted me confidentially to read the draft of the Report of his Commission on the Aleppo Vilayet.

1. *Administration.*—Speaking of the many acknowledged abuses of the Administration and the notorious character of many officials, and of the instructions the Commissioners specially received to observe how far the power of Governors-General was unduly restricted by existing regulations, and what measures of decentralization it would be expedient to adopt the Report recommends, that the nomination of employés should, as at present, be made from Constantipole, but that every appointment should be submitted to the Vali for approval.

2. That heads of Departments in the province should not, as is now the case, correspond with the chief of their respective services at the capital, but that all correspondence should be forwarded through the Vali, who, of course, in forwarding it could make any remarks he chose.

3. That the Vali's time should not be occupied with affairs of detail as is now the case.

[NOTE.—At present the Vali is Mutessarif of the head-quarter sandjak; this work alone nearly fills his time, and with that necessitated by matters referred to him from sandjaks, and the ordinary business appertaining to their Administration, he has no time to give to a study of the general requirements of his province, nor for visits of inspection perhaps more necessary in Turkey than in any other country.]

4. A decentralization of the vilayet affairs in the management of which at present an unnecessary amount of work falls on the head-quarters. This clause is very generally stated and enters into no detail.

5. *Gendarmerie.*—The lamentable state of the saptieh force is clearly stated as are the facts of many of the men being without uniform and the pay of all in arrears, as well as that of the whole force being without instruction or organization. The organization and inspection by Rushdi Bey, a special Inspector who has been for some months in the province, is spoken of, and it is stated that this reorganization is merely a patching of the old system, as the new scheme had not, when it was introduced, yet received Government sanction.

These facts I have reported in former despatches. The Report goes on to point out, that with a number of highly paid European Inspectors at Constantinople, who for over two years have had nothing to do, this special Turkish functionary has been dispatched for the purpose, and that already his mission has cost the Local Treasury 140,000 piastres (over 1,000*l.*) This official reports serious malversations of public moneys by various officers, but owing to technical or other legal difficulties no action, the report states, has hitherto been taken towards bringing the matter home to them.

Speaking of the reorganization and reconstitution of the force, the report says (as I have already recorded in previous despatches) that for pecuniary and other reasons the work was begun in one sandjak at a time, and that so far it had only been attempted in the Aleppo Sandjak.

The present proceeding is looked on merely as a makeshift, but the Commissioners have taken preparatory steps in order that when the Vali receives instructions to introduce the new scheme, it can be at once initiated.

The Report earnestly recommends the despatch of one of the European Inspectors of Gendarmerie to Aleppo.

The numbers, distribution, and state of the gendarmerie are given on a Return appended to the Report.

6. *Public Works.*—The Report regrets that the Department of Public Works, such an acknowledged requisite in all local Governments, cannot be said to exist at Aleppo. In reinstituting this Department it urges on the Government the desirability of employing staff officers on an extensive scale, recommending that one superior officer and an assistant should be told off to each vilayet, with an officer of subordinate grade in each sandjak; as a commencement these officers to be specially instructed in roadmaking, &c. The Commission considers it part of its duty to forward a plan of proposed communications, the developement of trade routes, &c.; but on account of the mutual dependence of each other of the interests of the various vilayets, defers forwarding this scheme until after visiting the Vilayets of Diarbekir, Mosul, and Bagdad. It however points out as two important measures—

(1.) The draining of the Alexandretta marshes.

(2.) The draining of the Hamuk Obasi, or Antioch Plain; both points on which I have already forwarded Reports to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador in previous despatches.

7. *Commerce and Agriculture.*—Ignoring the Tribunal of Commerce, whose functions are merely judiciary, and the proceedings of which, from the absence of technical legal knowledge on the part of its members, usually themselves merchants, or from the interested motives of these men, are generally a mere farce or result in flagrant injustice, the Commissioners' Report states that no Department for the administration of the above two important interests exist; they recommend their being attached to the Public Works.

8. *Public Instruction.*—Under this heading the Report roundly states that no Department can be said to exist. It alludes to the existence of primary and Rushdieh schools, but states (as is undeniably the case) that education is lamentably deficient,

although the inhabitants of all denominations are most eager for improved facilities of acquiring it. The Report enters into no details.

9. *Cadastre and Census.*—The Commissioners next proceed to state that no trustworthy cadastre can be said to exist, and that the statistics as to numbers of population are manifestly incorrect, a result that inflicts injustice on the people, impairs the revenue, and seriously affects the conscription for the army, and which, unless rectified, must inevitably break down the system of redifs or reservists, the opinions of the chief officer of whom in the district they quote in support of their assertion. A simultaneous census on a particular day all over the Empire is advocated, and it is suggested that such census be followed by a revision of the cadastre. In the census the number of women and female children is to be taken. The Moslem population is, in the opinion of the Commissioners, more numerous than is usually supposed. As a sequence to the census the headmen of all villages or communes are to be responsible, on pain of fine, for reporting modifications and should furnish a registration of births and deaths, half the fine to go to the informant. The individual members of communes are to be again responsible to the headmen, under pain of fine, for reporting births and deaths, and the responsibility is to be carried on upwards through the local Governors.

The Department at present charged with the collection of statistics to be henceforth one of inspection and control, its functions being rather to verify and compile than to record in the first instance.

Commandants of redifs to check the lists of population in their districts, and to be responsible for the correctness of those affecting the classes liable to military service.

10. *Refugees.*—The work that has been done of late in the Aleppo district since the arrival of Said Pasha is most warmly spoken of; the assignment of lands, supervision and assistance of officers, &c., is spoken of. This I have already reported privately and officially to his Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador, who has taken great interest in the work, and assisted with funds.

11. *Aleppo Sandjak to be Divided.*—The division of the head-quarter sandjak, that of Aleppo, which contains eleven cazas, into two, is advocated, the new Mutessarillik to be Alexandretta.

12. *Finance.*—The Commission point out clearly the disastrous effect of the "havalés" or preference orders on the provincial Treasuries, drawn last year for a sum far in excess of the total revenue, and which, they aver, render impossible not only the successful introduction of an improved gendarmerie, but paralyze any attempts at general amelioration.

In concluding, the Report mentions that Said Pasha cannot in any way be considered responsible for the unsatisfactory state of things in the Government to which he has but recently succeeded, but that, on the contrary, a marked improvement in some directions has attended his efforts.

The document appears to me singularly concise, practical, and to the point, and at the same time there is nothing in it that could in any way wound the susceptibilities of the Central Government, and the reporting of which can in any way be regarded as being anything but the clear duty of an Ottoman functionary charged with such a mission as Baker Pasha; in fact, I trust that its very moderate tone will suffice to disarm the suspicion, jealousy, and resentment ever arrayed in Turkey against officials of foreign origin.

The Customs and Justice are subjects that Baker Pasha has purposely avoided reporting on, opining that when his experience is more varied he will be better able to judge of both, and that the numerous recent innovations in the latter have hardly as yet had a fair trial.

A Report will be forwarded after visiting each vilayet, to be followed by a general Report.

In private conversation with Baker Pasha, I have gathered that he shares the universal opinion as to the extremely unsatisfactory state of affairs, and he is very despondent as to the success of the introduction of measures, however good. The system is radically corrupt and rotten, how corrupt, how rotten, it is almost impossible for any one, until gaining such an insight into affairs as his present position enables him to, to realize. Intimate as for the past few years have been his relations with the Turks, the revelations of his present inspection of the civil Administration, as to the universal corruption, have, he says, fairly astounded him. He is anxious to advocate the establishment of a Civil Service College, in which all functionaries should be trained, selected pupils from the Rushdieh schools being received. Officials

dismissed for misconduct to be ineligible for further employment. Some measure, indeed, of this sort is urgently needed; no Turkish functionary believes in honesty—how can he?

No amount of measures introduced in the provinces will produce the men. Bringing home to the officials their responsibility can alone do this, and while Constantinople remains as it does, with the patronage and the highest administrative functions in its hands, any considerable amelioration in the provinces is well nigh impossible. Restrictions and responsibility must be initiated there, and the inner working of the whole system be completely changed. At present, with the rarest exceptions, no Turkish officials are really competent to undertake the conduct of any Department or enterprise. Public Instruction, Public Works, Census, Cadastre, &c., all will be the failures Police, Justice, Administration, and Finance now are.

For example, with such an arbitrary system of "prestation" as exists here, in any other country the finest roads in the world would be constructed; here even the officials begin to look on the work as hopeless, and wish companies to develop the country. It is needless to cite other examples, Customs, Tithes, Justice, Conscription —it is all the same.

Difficult as may be the constitutional local government of many and varied races, Asia Minor, with its curious mosaic of peoples, backward and unprepared as it is for self-government, appears to present singularly few difficulties as compared with European Turkey, for administration by a strong paternal Government, and compared with what the English rule has successfully overcome in India, the task, *per se*, seems easy enough. In internal affairs the Government has the baneful ascendancy of no one race to dread; it is without rival, and no serious opposition can be organized against it, or powerful coalition formed, owing to feuds, hatreds, and prejudice of class and race.

Turkish officials are intelligent if ignorant, and judging by the results of the misgovernment often successfully carried on with singularly inadequate means, their possession of considerable administrative talents cannot be denied. If the system rendered honesty as compulsory, dishonesty as fatally disastrous, to officials as in other countries, even making all due allowance for the inherent traditional defects of Oriental character, men with as great experience of the East and its races and peoples as Baker Pasha, think that Anatolia might yet be decently governed by Turks. Pay them, oblige them to be honest, and have frequent inspections with a few foreigners in high places, and reform and fair government is possible; such is Baker Pasha's opinion. But this, of course apart from the enormous pecuniary difficulties, means a total radical change of the practical working of the whole Constantinople system, the working out and the apportioning of the responsibility of which must necessarily, I imagine, affect even the Royal prerogatives, and I gather that the Pasha is rather speaking of remote possibilities than of anticipated realities, of what might be done in a certain case, which, I fear, he has as little expectation of seeing realised as myself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 147.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 264.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 22, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch which has been addressed to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia by Captain Cooper, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, relative to the case of Zoghun Oglou Moustapha, a convert to Christianity, whose return to his home at Marash has been refused by the authorities of that place.

This despatch will put your Excellency in possession of the facts of the case, and I have to request you to take an opportunity of making a representation to the Sultan to the effect that this would seem to be an opportunity in which His Majesty's authority might well be exerted to enable Moustapha to return to his home in Marash, and thus give practical effect to the assurances which have been received of Her Majesty's intention to maintain to the fullest extent the principle of religious liberty throughout his dominions.

I take this opportunity of reminding you of the declaration made to your Excellency by the Sultan, as reported in your despatch No. 4 of the 1st instant, that

every Mussulman, even were he an Ulema or Mollah, who embraced Protestantism, or any other form of the Christian faith, would be free from all interference or molestation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 148.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 265.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 22, 1880.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 377 of the 1st instant, transmitting a copy of a letter which you had received from the Armenian Patriarch complaining of the bad treatment of the Armenians of certain districts near Diarbekir by Kurdish Chiefs.

Your Excellency likewise incloses copy of a note which you addressed to the Sublime Porte, in consequence of the Patriarch's letter, calling the serious attention of the Ottoman Government to the subject, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your having made this representation to Sawas Pasha.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 149.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

(No. 20.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, April* 22, 1880.

I HAVE to instruct you to convey to Captain Stewart, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul for the Konieh Vilayet, the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the line of action pursued by him as regards Jemal Bey, as reported by him in his despatch to you, No. 2, of the 16th January, which formed one of the inclosures in your despatch No. 14 of the 5th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 150.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 408. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 10, 1880.

THE inclosed Report, which has been received from a gentleman in the confidence of Midhat Pasha, respecting the measures which his Highness has been enabled to put into execution in Syria, since his nomination as Vali of that province, may interest your Lordship, though it should be borne in mind that the statements come from a quarter where all acts of the Vali are viewed in the most favourable light.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 150.

Vassif Effendi to Mr. Nicolson.

Damas, le 20 *Mars*, 1880.

Mon cher Nicolson,

SACHANT que Sir Henry Layard et vous prenez un grand intérêt à connaître les actes accomplis ici depuis un an, j'ai cru bon de faire un sommaire des faits que son Altesse a décrété. Malgré le manque complet de pouvoirs, j'ai ajouté une liste des écoles élémentaires et une liste des émigrés casés en Syrie, et si j'arrive à temps je vous transmettrai le nombre de nos nouveaux gendarmes organisés, ainsi que de la police.

La question métallique me tracasse, et il faut surveiller attentivement et activement la population, car un peu de lassitude et négligence peut nous amener des conflits.

Le froid et la gelée que nous avons eu ces jours derniers ont complétement détruit tous les arbres fruitiers, tels que orangers, citronniers, pruniers, &c.; la perte en argent monte d'après les calculs à presque £ T. 70,000 à 80,000. En revanche, la récolte des céréales sera très-abondante et bonne, surtout celle du Hauran. Le bétail a beaucoup

souffert, la mortalité de chameaux, chevaux, bœufs, et surtout moutons est très-grande, et l'on pense que malgré l'augmentation de la taxe sur les moutons, l'on ne pourra pas même retirer la moitié du montant de l'année passée.

Bref, l'esprit général ici est en effervescence, et la partie matérielle (argent) est aussi dans un état pitoyable ; je crains que le Budget de la Syrie ne sera pas de moitié à découvert. Gare si la question du pèlerinage ne sera par abolie.

A la suite d'une longue conversation avec son Altesse le résultat a été qu'elle est décidée de conserver son poste au plus tard jusqu'au 10 Mai. Tant pour votre gouverne. Les ordres que nous recevons de Constantinople deviennent de jour en jour plus inconcevables et confus.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. VASSIF CLICIAN.

Inclosure 2 in No. 150.

Aperçu Sommaire des principaux Actes de Son Altesse Midhat Pacha, depuis sa nomination au poste de Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Syrie.

Décembre 2, 94 (1878).—Institution d'une boîte à requêtes. Moyen propre à épargner aux pétitionnaires l'anxiété de l'attente en permettant au Valy en personne d'examiner leurs réclamations, et d'y donner de suite cours.

Décembre 18.—Lecture du Firman Impérial, suivie d'une allocution prononcée par Son Altesse, et dans laquelle il engage tous les bons citoyens à vivre dans la confraternité pour assurer le bonheur et la prospérité au pays.

En outre, il commença à régler dès ce jour-là les attributions judiciaires des Mékémes, et entreprit de créer une prison convenable dans la Citadelle.

Deux mesures qui ont porté leurs fruits.

Décembre 10.—Une Commission est instituée en vue d'améliorer et propager l'instruction publique.

Décembre 25.—Un Comité Conseil fut organisé au Zabita (Zaptié) pour accélérer l'exécution des sentences et la marche des affaires.

Sur ces entrefaites Son Altesse se rend à Beyrouth, et là, ayant élaboré son programme de réformes, il manda à Constantinople Vassif Effendi Clician, aujourd'hui Directeur Politique du Vilayet, pour soumettre ce programme au sanctionnement de la Sublime Porte.

Janvier 8.—Ayant conçu le projet de réformer tous les Tribunaux, il en réfère à Constantinople.

Janvier 15.—Un arrêt fut rendu pour déterminer les cas de contrainte par corps des débiteurs ou faillis ; mesure propre à mettre fin aux abus et vexations qui se commettaient sur une large échelle.

L'Ingénieur Anglais, Mr. Ch. Austin, fut appelé de Londres pour faire une étude générale sur le vilayet, et voir les travaux d'utilité publique indispensable à créer dans la province.

Janvier 15.—Mise en jugement de l'employé des Douanes d'Acre, prévenu d'exactions et ouverture d'enquête sur certaines plaintes formulées contre différents employés.

Janvier 22.—Réforme des poids employés dans le négoce à Damas. Prohibition promulguée de faire des dépôts de pétrole *intra muros*. Ouverture d'un théâtre à Damas.

Février 5.—Mise sous accusation de Habib Bey Riskalla, de Beyrouth, soupçonné d'avoir assassiné son beau-fils, jeune homme Anglais. (Aucun résultat).

Février 12.—Voulant donner preuve qu'il désapprouvait un abus de l'autorité en vigueur jusque-là, et qui consistait à assaillir les bédouins et leur enlever leur chevaux, ânes, chameaux, &c., procédé bien nuisible. Son Altesse saisit l'opportunité de la plainte d'un nomade à qui un zaptieh avait ravi sa jument pour faire restituer la bête au plaignant et affirmer par-là qu'elle reprouvait un tel genre de procédé pour l'avenir.

Mesure très-efficace et salutaire.

Février 2.—Convocation d'une Assemblée de Notables à l'effet de pourvoir aux ressources nécessaires à l'entretien des nouvelles écoles.

Février 19.—Organisation de la police. Son Altesse élabore et publie les Règlements qui doivent régir cette institution.

Exécution des trois criminels convaincus d'avoir brûlé et assassiné deux Chrétiens dans le district de Merz-Eyoun.

Départ de Son Altesse pour Tripoli.

Février 24.—Répression de la tribu Bédouinne, nommé Béni-Sakir.

Février 26.—Institution du Méfrézé (infanterie à mulet) à l'effet d'empêcher les déprédations des Bédouins.

Mars 1.—La prison de la Citadelle étant achevée tous les criminels y sont transférés.

Mars 2.—Décision relative à la révision du cadastre de certaines personnes lésées.

Mars 7.—Remise en possession de leurs terrains des villageois de Tel-cheabe (village du Hauran).

Mars 7.—Envoi de Délégués pour faire une enquête relative à la dîme du Hauran.

Mars 8.—Nomination d'un Inspecteur de "Tabou," préposé à mettre de l'ordre dans cette branche d'Administration.

Régularisation conformément à la loi, de la position de plusieurs détenus à Tripoli, dont quelques-uns se trouvaient incarcérés depuis huit à dix ans, sans aucune culpabilité, et d'autres avaient depuis longtemps purgé les peines. En revanche arrestation de plusieurs prévenus.

Le Cadi de Geblé, s'étant laissé soudoyer pour acquitter un délinquant, son Altesse, qui se trouvait sur les lieux, fit passer ce fonctionnaire en jugement, le dégrada et le mit en prison.

Mars 3.—Ouverture des travaux d'une route carossable de Tripoli à Homs. Organisation de diverses écoles à Tripoli. Fondation d'une Compagnie pour la construction d'un tramway à Tripoli. Rénovation du Tribunal Administratif. Arrestation de différents coupables. Institution d'une Commission d'Enquête préposée à l'examen des délits en suspens dans les districts.

Mars 10.—Institution d'un Comité affecté aux choix des policemans.

Mars 13.—Décision prise par Son Altesse que les impôts seront perçus en numéraire.

Mars 14.—Réélection des membres des Tribunaux du vilayet. Construction dans le Hauran d'un local pour les zaptiés qui étaient auparavant obligés d'aller coucher dans les villages.

Mars 15.—Mesures prises à l'effet d'empêcher le retour des concussions que certains fonctionnaires commettaient.

Délibérations à propos du port de Beyrouth.

Mars 15.—Hausse de 10 pour cent sur la valeur des biens-fonciers à Tripoli.

Le marché appelé Bezourié est reconstruit à Damas sur un nouveau mode.

Destitution du Président de la Municipalité, et réélection des membres.

Arrestation de l'assassin Otta Effendi (Notable de Damas).

Création du Mutessarifat du "Merkez" (Damas).

Ouverture du Jardin Municipal.

Introduction de la police, Beyrouth.

Avril 25.—Élaboration des règlements de la nouvelle gendarmerie à pied et à cheval.

Avril 26.—Organisation d'une poste reliant Damas, Homs, Hama, Hosne, et Tripoli. Trois courriers par semaine : Samedi, Lundi, et Mercredi (mesure d'une efficacité patente), et qui a valu à son Altesse une vive reconnaissance.

Avril 28.—Restauration de la fabrique de coton à Damas. Promulgation des nouveaux Règlements.

Mai 2.—Arrêt de certains abus qui se pratiquaient au district de Lattaquié, et qui ne pouvaient avoir pour effet que d'entretenir chez les habitants un sentiment de répugnance pour le progrès.

Mai 16.—Les Libanais prêtent leur concours pour l'accomplissement de la route de Tripoli à Homs.

Mai 19.—Sur les instigations de son Altesse quelques Notables se décident à faire venir d'Europe divers instruments aratoires.

Mai 20.—Amélioration de la typographie et de l'imprimerie du vilayet.

Mai 23.—Création d'un bureau télégraphique à Hasbeya.

Mai 30.—Punition de plusieurs collecteurs d'impôts qui avaient perçu la contribution sans donner des quittances aux contribuables. Règlement nouveau apte à obvier à ces abus.

Mai 30.—Introduction de la police dans les sandjacks.

Mai 30.—Du consentement des habitants, l'impôt du district de Ageloun est augmenté de 140,000 piastres.

Restitution d'un vol commis à Saffed sur des Israélites. Arrestation des coupables et destitution du Caïmacan du lieu.

Juin 2.—Commencement de la route de Salhié.

Juin 3.—Augmentation de 9,000,000 et tant de piastres sur les dîmes du vilayet.

Juin 3.—Nomination d'un Inspecteur pour les Écoles Élémentaires.

Juin 12.—Erection du Caza de Lattaquié en Mutessarifat.

Juin 13.—Pour fixer chaque gendarme sur ses attributions et le mettre à même d'exercer son mandat quand il est envoyé en mission, un petit livret d'instructions lui est remis.

Juin 14.—La dîme de Merz-Eyoun ayant été affermée d'une façon louche, son Altesse annula cette transaction et parvint à affermer cette dîme pour une somme qui excéda la première de 374,124 piastres.

Juin 15.—Les affaires survenues à Hurmul (Liban) ayant été soumises à une enquête effectuée sur les lieux par les délégués du vilayet et ceux du Liban, quinze prévenus Libanais furent remis au vilayet par la gendarmerie Libanaise, furent jugés, et subirent leur punition.

Juin 15.—Ordonnance pour la construction d'un quai sur les rives de la Rivière Barada, passant dans la ville.

Juin 16.—Découverte d'une exemption frauduleuse d'impôts et de dîmes, fait dans le Hauran, en faveur de quelques Notables.

Juin 22.—Répression des déprédations que certaines tribus nomades relevant d'Alep commençaient à commettre sur les limites du vilayet.

Juin 26.—Un Inspecteur sur les Tribunaux est nommé par son Altesse.

Juillet 3.—Exécution vis-à-vis des ateliers de la Compagnie de la route de Damas, d'un scélérat qui avait, il y a deux ans, assassiné un employé Français de la Compagnie, et sur qui la justice, grâce aux nouveaux gendarmes, avait fini par mettre la main quelques jours avant l'exécution.

Juillet 6.—Institution de la Direction Politique.

Juillet 8.—Un commencement de cours est donné dans le Hauran à la loi des "Tapous."

Juillet 11.—Décision prise à l'effet de prohiber la cession d'immeubles par simple "Hodjet."

Juillet 14.—Permis donné à un journal non-officiel écrit en Turc et Arabe à paraître sous le nom de "Damas-Dimischk."

Juillet 21.—Départ de son Altesse en voiture pour Homs et Hama.

Juillet 26.—Décision prise pour prescrire que les différends relatifs aux traites ou bons souscrits par les paysans seront jugés par devant les Tribunaux de Justice.

Juillet 31.—Décision qui enjoint aux Tribunaux de veiller sur les intérêts des orphelins.

Restitution de diverses marchandises qu'avaient été enlevées par les Bédouins à une caravane de chameliers sur la route de Homs.

Août 14.—Son Altesse quitte Tripoli pour se rendre à Lattaquié.

Nomination d'un Mudir à Iki Capouli. Cinquante zaptiés sont mis sous ses ordres pour lui permettre d'assurer la sécurité de la route de Damas à Homs.

Reconstruction du Han de Koutaifa, et installation d'un poste de zaptiés pour la sécurité de la route.

Arrestation de divers coupables.

Adoption du "Kéfié" pour la gendarmerie à cheval.

Septembre 15.—Le nouveau Code Pénal n'étant pas compatible avec l'état et les mœurs du pays, Son Altesse signifie aux Mutessarifs de ne pas permettre l'élargissement des criminels et malfaiteurs, sur une décision des Tribunaux Judiciaires, malgré leur indépendance, à l'insu de l'autorité.

Mise à la raison par Son Altesse de la fameuse tribu dite Dandaschli, qui habite Hosne, et qui a acquis une certaine célébrité, grâce à ses désordres et son insubordination.

Septembre 25.—Soumission entre les mains de l'autorité de Hama de quelques brigands de renom.

Octobre 2.—Naissance de la question Druze du Hauran, question aplanie et tranchée à la satisfaction du Gouvernement. Installation d'un Caïmacam Druze, Saïd Bey Talhouk, dans la montagne.

Inauguration de la route carossable de Salhié.

Octobre 6.—Prescription touchant les avocats et leur examen.

Octobre 10.—Création d'une école pour les policemans, à l'effet d'étudier le Règlement qui les régit ainsi qu'une partie du Code Pénal.

Octobre 16.—De Constantinople et d'Alep on demande à Son Altesse un spécimen de l'uniforme adopté par lui pour la police et la gendarmerie.

Octobre 30.—Arrestation d'une bande de voleurs.

Novembre 6.—Nomination au Caïmacamat de Géblé, de Oli Bey, Hamadé, Druze Notable.

Novembre 15.—Les émigrés sont installés dans les villages qui leur ont été affectés aux Cazas de Kouméatra à Homs, Hama, et Tripoli.

Mise sous accusation du Caïmacam de Ageloun, prévenu d'exaction (procès continue).

Décembre 22.—Institution d'un service d'omnibus entre la ville de Damas et Salhié.

Janvier 15, 95 (1880).—Ouverture d'une nouvelle école à Homs.

Mise sous jugement du Caïmacam de "Sour" à la suite de plaintes formulées contre lui par une partie des habitants (plaintes illusoires).

Ouverture de plusieurs écoles à Saïdar, Beyrouth, Tripoli, Lattaquié, Hama, Nasslour, St. Jean d'Acre.

Avril 14.—Ouverture des travaux pour la route carossable entre Damas, Homs, et Hama.

Donation d'un immense terrain à la communauté Chrétienne pour fonder deux villages, "Schemissin et Dumeni." Résultat parfait.

Nomination d'un Caïmacam Chrétien à Markap.

La police et la gendarmerie est composée de Musulmans, Druzes, et Chrétiens.

Ouverture d'une grande rue à Beyrouth, conduisant à Ras-el-Beyrouth.

Projet de Son Altesse déjà moitié en exécution pour la création d'une école Israélite à Damas.

Février.—Inauguration du Tramway de Tripoli et son fonctionnement.

Inauguration de l'Orphelinat (150 orphelins nourris et logés), crée par Son Altesse à Damas. (Construction de l'hospice, entretien et accommodement de première classe).

Telle est à peu près la nomenclature des principaux faits et réformes qui ont signalé la gestion annuelle de Son Altesse.

Je me suis borné à énumérer ces faits sans aucune amplification, me dispensant ainsi de tout commentaire.

Gendarmes à pied (80 Chrétiens)	..	..	..	..	582	
" à cheval (50 Chrétiens)	..	..	..	..	448	
Police (51 Chrétiens)	..	..	..	..	153	
Nouvelle organisation	..	..	..	..	..	1,283
Anciens zaptiés—						
Zaptiés à cheval	..	..	..	..	672	
" à pied ..	..	..	..	..	384	
						1,056
Pour tout le vilayet ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,339

Écoles Élémentaires instituées par Son Altesse Midhat Pasha dans les diverses Parties du Vilayet.

Sandjaks.	Ecoles de Garçons.	Nombre des Elèves.	Ecoles de Filles.	Nombre des Elèves.	Observations.
1. Damas	11	1,190	4	380	Les écoles des districts et d'autres qui sont encore en fondation, ne sont pas comprises dans cette liste.
2. Beyrouth	6	185	3	485	
3. Tripoli	4	320	2	140	
4. Lattaquié	4	315	1	48	
5. Hama	2	105	1	37	
6. Belka	2	121	..	..	
7. St. Jean d'Acre ..	2	97	1	52	
8. Hauran	..	..	..	..	
Total	31	2,323	12	1,142	

En tout—		
Garçons		2,323
Filles		1,142
Elèves		3,465

LISTE des Émigrés se trouvant en Syrie.

No.	Sandjaks.	Villages.	Familles.	Personnes.	Observations.
1	St. Jean d'Acre	Oulma-el-Kat ..	75	360	District de Safed.
	Ditto	Kafar Kenna ..	90	340	District du Tiberiade.
2	Damas	Medji Sultan ..	220	750	
	Ditto	Hoche-el-Achâri ..	20	80	District de Djebel-el-Kolemsun.
	Ditto	Balbek	12	50	
3	Tripoli	Behnin	100	360	
	Ditto	Près Tripoli ..	350	900	
4	Hauran	Konnétra	750	3,500	
5	Hama	Félil	47	162	
	Ditto	Koutah	38	120	
	Ditto	Tel-Eddadé	40	181	
	Ditto	Deir Chemel ..	16	71	
6	Homs	Midan	51	224	
	Ditto	Eyoun	78	360	
	Ditto	Esselé	52	187	District de Homs.
	Ditto	Berfour	31	158	
	Ditto	Homs	6	27	
7	Belkâ	Amman	29	126	
	Ditto	Djebont	52	140	District de Jéniné.
	Ditto	Gubé	64	570	
8	Lattaquié	... .	68	289	
	Ditto	Arab-el-Mulk ..	90	290	
	Total	..	2,301	9,519	

No. 151.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 23.*)

(No. 418.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 13, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a Report on the Vilayet of Angora by Mr. Vice-Consul Gatheral, which I have received from Mr. Consul-General Wilson, who in sending it to me suggests that it should be printed.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Report on the Population, Industries, Trade, Commerce, Agriculture, Public Works, Land Tenure, and Government of City and Province of Angora, Anatolia, by Vice-Consul Gatheral.

THE population of this city and province is a small one, taking into consideration its wide extent and general fertility, and for five years past that population has been visibly diminishing, owing to the emigration of considerable numbers during the famine of 1873-74, the drain on the male Moslem population owing to the war of 1877-78, and the special products of the province having for three years in succession proved unremunerative to the Christians engaged in its commerce many of them have quitted the province for Constantinople or other parts of Anatolia.

A Turkish census takes no note of females or male children under fifteen years of age, returning only the total of males liable to military service amongst Moslems, and amongst Christians those from whom the "military service exemption tax" is exigible. The last enumeration was in 1877, and the total then returned was 449,241; this multiplied by three, according to the Redhouse rule, gives a total of 1,347,723 souls. These are divided into the following sects or communities: Moslems, Gregorian or Orthodox Armenians, Catholic Armenians, Protestant Armenians, Greeks, Jews, and Gipsies. The numbers of each community are stated in the same Return as follows:—

Males liable to military service—		
Moslems	394,671	
Total population (Moslems)		1,179,222
Males paying military service exemption tax—		
Christians—		
Gregorian Armenians	33,446	
Roman Catholic Armenians	3,935	
Protestant Armenians	660	

Jews	280	
Gipsies	262	
Total population other than Moslems		168,501
Total of males	449,241	
Total population		1,347,723

Those different races have origins as varied as their creeds. The Moslems are for the most part the descendants of the Turkish soldiery who conquered the province from the Byzantine Empire, A.D. 1344-15, under Sultan Murad, then reigning at Broussa. The Armenians are the result of an emigration from the eastward during the fifteenth century; they have been subdivided into Roman Catholic and Protestant in recent times; the leading Roman Catholic families were exiles from Constantinople in 1830, during the reign of Sultan Mahmoud; their wealth, intelligence, and commercial relations with Europe added greatly to the prosperity of the city; later an energetic Jesuit propaganda, directed from Rome, had considerable success, but in later years they have lost their ascendency, having split up into old and new Catholics as in Europe; the schism officially and outwardly has been healed, but the rancorous feeling towards each other remains, and they seem to have no further success in making converts. The Protestants are the result of American missionary effort during the last twenty-eight years. Though meanwhile small in numbers, they are as a community better educated, more truthful and honest, than any of the other Christian sects, and are gaining rapidly in numbers and influence. The Orthodox or Gregorian Armenians are, as a community, ignorant, superstitious, and poverty-stricken, but count more adherents than either of the later sects. The small Jewish community, being mostly blonde and speaking a bastard Spanish, are evidently of Iberian origin; whilst the origin of the few nomad gipsy tribes who come and go is as great a mystery in Anatolia as in Europe.

The totals of each race have been already indicated; the numbers of each as inhabiting the four sandjaks or departments into which the province is at present divided are as follows:—

	Moslems.	Armenians.	Catholics.	Protestants.	Greeks.	Jews, &c.
Angora Sandjak, including the towns of Beybazar, Sivrihissar, Ayash, Nallihan, and Ismos, with 1,022 villages	558,534	11,277	10,719	147	3,175	340
Yozgat Sandjak, with 898 villages ..	304,221	34,473	..	288	10,554	762
Kighserai Sandjak, with 180 villages ..	166,902	54,060	1,230	1,639	37,941	..
Kursheir Sandjak, with 369 villages ..	149,302	558	..	..	972	..
Totals	1,179,019	100,368	12,055	2,074	52,695	1,602
Grand total	1,347,723 souls					

The number of houses in the province is under-noted. Any calculation or estimate founded on these is apt to be misleading, unless account is taken of what is called in Turkish "moosakafat," which means literally any erection that has either roof or gates; this very general term includes garden-houses inhabited during five months of each year, khans, caravanserai, cafés, shops, baths, barns, granaries, mills, stables, and folds for cattle; some of these (notably khans) are more crowded with permanent residents than any ordinary house, but Turkish Returns unfortunately only distinguish between houses and this latter category (which may be described as "other buildings") without giving details of how the totals are made up.

	Number of Houses in City.	Number of Houses in Department.	Other Buildings
Angora	4,823	61,080	132,340
Yozgat	2,071	42,755	273,057
Kighserai	8,137	37,304	250,485
Kursheir	1,282	15,338	139,309
Total	16,313	156,637	805,291

The special industries of the city of Angora are almost entirely connected with its principal product—mohair. A considerable quantity of this goats' hair is spun,

carded, and woven into what are called "challis," a lustrous cloth used for the cloaks and dresses of native women and summer garments for men; "sof," another and thicker variety, is worn entirely by men. These fabrics are dressed and dyed in a special way, the makers still adhering to the old-fashioned vegetable colours, as, though not so brilliant as the modern aniline tints, they are found to be more durable.

At Kursheir, a town 120 miles to the south-eastward, there is a special industry in the weaving of those rugs and carpets, known as Turkey carpets in Europe.

The employments of the people are somewhat restricted in number, from the fact of the province being entirely an inland one, and still further from the exclusiveness of creed extending to the modes in which the people gain their livelihood, establishing unwritten laws as to what a Moslem or Christian may or may not do. Speaking generally, the Moslem part of the population is engaged as tillers of the soil, stock-farmers, or herds, whilst the Christians are produce exporters, proprietors, money-changers, agents, shopkeepers, tax-gatherers, &c. This difference in creed makes so sharp a distinction that a Turkish merchant doing business on his own account is unknown, and a Christian peasant tilling the soil with his own hands is extremely rare.

In analyzing the various employments, the first place must be allotted amongst Moslems to the official class. The city of Angora being the seat of Government, and the official buildings and residence of the Governor-General being situated there, this class is extremely numerous, not only those actually in power, but those who have been superseded and hope to be re-employed, those who have not yet secured a place but are striving to do so, all these, with Moslem priests, teachers, students, and their retainers, servants, and hangers-on, crowd the court and corridors of the Government building and the thoroughfares leading to it; next in rank to these are the resident land-owners and stock-farmers, horse and cattle dealers, grain and flour merchants, retail shopkeepers dealing in the produce of the district, including butchers, bakers, sellers of fruit, vegetables, and dairy produce, groceries, spices, cordage, wood, charcoal; this last class generally have Christian partners, who supply the capital and keep the accounts. The handicrafts, especially Turkish, are as follows: shoemakers, blacksmiths, iron and copper workers, muleteers, water-sellers, and porters. A large number are employed as brokers or middlemen, engaged by Christians to collect produce in the villages, and remunerated by commission or salary.

The Christian communities, besides the usual professional classes, clergy, lawyers, and doctors, include wholesale merchants, engaged in buying, selling, and forwarding the special products of the district; these are mohair, sheep's wool, salted skins and hides, opium, gums, and yellow berries; these employ considerable numbers of mohair and wool sorters, brokers, clerks, and assistants. The import merchants, both wholesale and retail, offer for sale Manchester prints, Glasgow shawls and muslins, Sheffield cutlery, Birmingham arms, Wolverhampton metals, coarse English crockery and glass, French and Austrian cloths, colonials, coffee, sugar, and tobacco, petroleum oil merchants.

Between the mercantile and industrial classes are some that cannot be classed with either, as they prey upon both; these are money-changers, money-lenders, tithe-collectors, tax-gatherers, and to these auctioneers may be added.

Then come the ordinary trades—stone-masons, marble-cutters, builders, labourers, carpenters, painters, glaziers, cabinet-makers, weavers, dyers, cooks, and confectioners. There are a few trades that are common to both Turks and Christians, such as tailors, shoemakers, silversmiths, and jewellers, the distinction being that the Turk makes exclusively Turkish articles, the Christian entirely European, or "à la franga" as it is called.

The few Europeans resident here are engaged as merchants, agents, doctors, and apothecaries.

Nothing worthy of the name of "factory" exists at Angora. All the special industries of the place are carried on at home by hand labour. Neither steam nor water power have yet been utilized in manufacture, the impossibility of transporting the needful machinery, some 300 miles from the nearest port, on mule or camel back, having so far proved insurmountable. Could the transport problem be solved, there can be little doubt the city of Angora is extremely well suited for factory industry; it is a central market for staples, water-power is available, and the character of the Christian population would suit them for it, as they are patient in learning, and quick to perfect themselves in all labour of that kind.

The Angora province is rich in minerals of various kinds, which are all the

property of Government, and have of late years been abandoned. The principal are: Denek Maden, argentiferous lead; Ak Dagh, iron ore; Mohallitch, copper ore; Mohallitch, fullers-earth; and Lekelee, near Yozgut, rock salt. The two last having been conceded by Government to local capitalists and the Imperial Ottoman Bank are being vigorously and successfully worked. It is only where there is an active local demand for such articles as fullers-earth and salt that mining enterprise can be remunerative in this province, the transport of ore to where it can be smelted and shipped being again the difficulty.

The rate of wages is at present, for unskilled labour, 10 piastres "behlik," or equal to 1*s.* 6*d.* per day; skilled labour, 15 piastres, or 2*s.* 3*d.* Superior workmen from Europe or Constantinople easily secure 1 méjidie, or 3*s.* 3*d.* per diem. Mohair-sorters receive from 1*s.* 9*d.* to 2*s.* per day.

In considering the manners and customs of the Angora population, account must be taken of those that are common to all nationalities, and those that are peculiar to each. The manners of the people as a whole are distinguished by extreme courtesy and politeness in their intercourse with each other, a submissiveness almost abject to authority of every kind, and a thoughtful, unsparing hospitality to all strangers and foreigners; this hospitality indeed is their most striking characteristic. The Moslem practises it because his prophet and teachers enjoin him to do so, and because he firmly believes that he will be fully rewarded in an after-existence for the hospitality he has shown in this one, the consequence being that in the poorest and most miserable Turkish village the passing traveller will find a guest-chamber made ready for him where his wants will be attended to, and it is but rarely that he can induce his hosts to accept any recompense for their trouble. The Christians practise the same virtue, but from different motives and scarcely to the same extent; with them it has become custom, always stronger than law, and, further, because in the absence of newspapers, periodicals, and books they are always excessively curious to hear the latest news and gossip from any place, whether near or far.

Many of the Moslem social customs strike a foreigner as extremely curious. Their marriage ceremonies last a week, and sometimes longer; it is indispensable that each honoured guest should have a separate house allotted him during the festivities, and this involves building temporary erections for the purpose. At an ordinary village wedding the guests often number from 200 to 300, who are entertained all the time at the expense of the bridegroom or his father, if living. The expense of such celebrations is very heavy, and often ruinous to those responsible for them. The Christians have adopted this absurd custom, and in towns the expenditure is of course even greater, the marriage ceremony itself occupying a very small part of the week's proceedings. All this makes matrimony a luxury attainable only by the rich and well-to-do, and indirectly tends to encourage irregular connections and prevent the increase of population. The seclusion of women is of course strictly enforced amongst Moslems, and although many of the more enlightened among them acknowledge the folly and evil of this custom there seems to be no remedy, the women themselves clinging to the due observance of it with a conservatism thoroughly feminine; the ignorance and superstition of the mother reacts on the children, particularly girls, and there seems little hope of any social reform or of education penetrating the prison-like seclusion of the harem until this absurd custom is either modified or broken down. As with many other customs, the Christians have, in their treatment of women, to some extent accepted Turkish ways; no Christian lady of Angora dares leave her house unless enveloped from brow to heel in the Turkish veil, the Roman Catholic priesthood in particular, for some unexplained reason, insisting on this being rigorously maintained, teaching their devotees that to expose the head in public is a heinous sin only to be atoned for by fasting and severe penance. The ignorance in which these women are kept, their seclusion almost amounting to imprisonment whilst unmarried, and the slavish domestic drudgery they have to undergo after marriage, make a painful impression, and lead one to have grave doubts as to the future emancipation of so-called Christian communities, who are one and all so fanatically opposed to mothers, sisters, or daughters acquiring any degree of knowledge, freedom, or civilizing influences.

Amongst minor customs that strike a foreigner as the reverse of those prevailing elsewhere, the following may be noted:—As a mark of respect, in the presence of superiors, the feet, and not the head, are uncovered; the table-cloth is placed under, not on the table; their time of day counts from sunset instead of

midnight, dusk being always twelve o'clock, which involves having either a watch with movable dial, or else altering the hands every day.

The state of morals in all the various communities leaves much to be desired. The Moslems are naturally gross and sensual both in language and conduct, many of their current every-day idioms being too coarse to translate into English, and only such as would be used in Europe by the lowest and most vicious class; they have, besides, inherited from the lower Greek Empire some of those nameless vices that hastened its fall. The first official business the writer was called upon to undertake after his appointment was to put a stop to the forcible abduction of Christian boys by Turkish officials to be used for the vilest purposes. Her Majesty's late Consul-General, Sir Philip Francis, took up the matter with his accustomed energy, and such a severe example was made of the principal offenders that the open practice of the offence was put a stop to, and no case of it has been brought to my knowledge officially for more than two years past. I have reason to believe, however, that it is still secretly practised, some vile Christians actually pandering to Turkish lust in this respect.

This low tone of morality in the ruling caste has, of course, its influences on all the others; female virtue or connubial fidelity are simply not believed in, except so far as confinement, seclusion, close watching, or lack of opportunity prevent the practice of immorality.

The drinking habits of the people here, as elsewhere, account for much of the prevailing laxity, as every family (in the neighbourhood of the city, at all events) possesses one or more vineyards; every Christian household accordingly prepares wine either for use, or sale, or both, as also a powerful spirit called "raki," a white brandy flavoured with aniseed, made either from wine or grape refuse, and which is not only largely consumed, but forms an item of export as well. Although drunkenness cannot be said to be general amongst the Christians, tippling is very common, and does much mischief. Of late years the Moslems have become addicted to the drinking of this spirit, especially the official class, and carry it to frightful excess; this is, of course, quite opposed to the injunctions of their Prophet, and some years ago would have exposed any one practising it to religious penalties and social outlawry, but it has become so common that it excites little remark, many of them, indeed, boasting openly of the quantity they can consume daily with impunity.

Although not by any means a restless populace, the wishes of the people with regard to Government may be said to consist in an eager desire for change. The present Provincial Government is both hated and despised by Moslem and Christian alike; hated, because of its perpetual exactions, its inefficiency and injustice, and despised because of its growing weakness.

The Moslem populace is far more outspoken in its denunciations than the Christian; even the governing class amongst Moslems admit freely that their Government is a failure, but they throw all the blame on the oligarchy of pashas and aristocrats in Constantinople, and the centralizing system of recent years, which has concentrated all power in the capital, so much so, that the merest routine memorandum cannot be drawn out here without instructions from Constantinople; nor can the most insignificant clerk be appointed, censured, or removed without the authority of the Central Government. They represent, further, that they are powerless to take the initiative in any reform, however necessary or however simple; that the greatest mistake any provincial official can make, is to show anything like activity or a desire to make himself popular with those he rules over; that "the powers that be" at the Porte are extremely jealous of anything like energy or devotion to duty, and visit any tendency of that kind with condign punishment. They assert that they are shut up to performing their routine duties in the way prescribed for them, drawing their salaries when they can get them, and adding to their incomes by any indirect means that come in their way so as to make what provision they can for the future, as they admit frankly that the present system cannot long be maintained.

Previous to the war of 1877-78 the practice of bribery and corruption was secret, and even when a suitor or petitioner was willing to administer a bribe, and knew that it would not be refused, it was often very difficult for him to find a means of giving it. Since the war, however, all disguise has been thrown aside, and bribes are given and received quite openly and above board; some lingering regard for appearances induces them, however, to disguise the receipt of such moneys under the name of presents, loans, commissions, &c., but the undeniable

fact remains. Most of the higher officials have a person in their employ who, under the name of secretary, intendant, or seal-bearer, is authorized to act as go-between, and arrange the terms on which a suit will be examined or a certain verdict given. Another well-known method, when it is desirable that no third party should be privy to the transaction, is for the petitioner to see the official in private, and, on leaving, to slip a purse containing the bribe under the cushion of the sofa on which the official is seated; this last shuts his eyes closely while this is being done, so that in the event of inquiry, he may be able to make oath that he neither saw nor handled it.

The aspirations of the Moslem populace who have any particle of patriotism left are an eager desire for a change of Sultan, for the appearance of a reformer that will revive the ancient enthusiasm of the Mahommedan religion, that will rid their country of the interference and criticism of the foreigner; call all good Moslems to rally round the sacred banner of the Prophet, and lead them in a war of revenge against the hated Muscovite.

The wishes and aspirations of the Christians are more practical and reasonable; they wish this feeble and corrupt yet tyrannical Government superseded by a strong one—foreign it must be, British would be preferred—but anything, even Russian, would be welcomed in preference to what they have. The announcement of the Anglo-Turkish alliance caused the wildest excitement amongst the Christian population of Angora, and the writer had the greatest difficulty in preventing a popular demonstration in front of his residence. The non-introduction of the stipulated reforms, any subsequent change having been for the worse, has caused profound disappointment, but there is no arguing these poor people out of the hope that ere very long these reforms will be not only introduced, but become effective; their desires meanwhile are limited to—

1. The establishment of an efficient police force, for service in which, Christians as well as Moslems, may be eligible, and that would make life and property secure, and clear the roads of brigandage.

2. The acceptance of Christian evidence in Courts of Justice on a parity with Moslems.

3. An end put to the interminable delay, expense, and jobbery of Turkish Courts.

4. A larger share in the administration of the province, and

5. The expenditure of a part of the provincial revenue in much-needed public works.

Besides this there is a growing desire on the part of the Christian communities for higher education for their children. The existing schools are of the most elementary description, and are so over-crowded as to be unmanageable; the rich send their children to Constantinople schools and colleges to complete their education, but this is the privilege of the wealthy few, and these young people generally settle in the capital, and rarely return to the provinces, so that no general benefit results.

The feeling towards the present Government has been sufficiently indicated; it is unpopular in the extreme, and should the present abuses be continued it appears by no means improbable that even this long-suffering, patient people will at last be roused to resistance.

The character of food and clothing and the cost of living per diem vary of course with the means and station of the people, as well as the creed and community to which the individual belongs. Taking, first of all, the Turkish peasantry, who form the lower class of the population, their clothing is of a very simple and inexpensive kind; summer and winter they wear grey or unbleached cotton underclothing, their upper garments being composed of those gaudy printed cottons manufactured in Manchester expressly for the Turkish trade. In winter they wear a cotton quilted upper garment; this costume is common to both sexes, the only addition for females being the thick muslin veil which covers face and figure, leaving only the eyes exposed. For weddings or holiday occasions both sexes wear an upper garment of coarse native-spun silk, which is manufactured for the purpose at Broussa and Aleppo. In the towns and cities the well-to-do classes add to their costume a cloth, fur-lined pelisse, made very ample, and which sweeps the ground; these pelisses or cloaks are very expensive, costing from 10*l.* to 40*l.* apiece, and grandees often make a display of their wealth in this respect by wearing several at a time. For head-dress the red cap or fez is universally worn by both sexes and all creeds, the distinction being that the Christian wears the fez alone, whereas the Moslem encircles it with a white or coloured turban. The fez worn by women is

smaller than that of men, and has a longer tassel. A pair of black or coloured boots completes the costume. With the Moslems the boot is made of soft leather, fastening half-way up the leg, with an outer boot of coarser material; the Christians have of late years adopted the European boot, with an outer leather goloshe, fastening with a spring, so as to be easily removed when indoors or in presence of a superior, and the material, being of a very coarse and flimsy description, in ordinarily prosperous times it requires to be renewed every six months. The winter quilt costs 8*s.* to 10*s.* additional.

The cost of living seems very low to a European, until on examination he finds that inhabitants of Angora account their expenses in quite a different way. Nearly every family has inherited or built or bought a town-house and country-house; these may be the merest hovels without windows or ceilings, but they are residences, and the owners occupy them rent-free; the country-house has invariably some acres of vineyard, several fruit trees, a patch of melon ground and vegetable garden, the produce of all which goes to help housekeeping and reduce outlay; further, nearly all the inhabitants of the city are owners or part-proprietors of farms in the neighbourhood, so that they raise their own wheat and barley, and very often their poultry and mutton as well. Consequently, a comfortable middle-class establishment is said to be kept going on an expenditure of 40*l.* to 50*l.* per year; but this merely represents the outlay for such luxuries or foreign products as clothing, coffee, sugar, tobacco, and the wages of servants, &c.

The cost of household furniture, owing to the fine climate, is merely nominal; that furniture consisting of bedding, a few native carpets, and kitchen utensils. Mild, bright weather continues for nine months out of the twelve, so that life can be maintained in the open air for three-fourths of the year, and it is only during the short severe winter that house-shelter and fire for warmth are really necessary.

On the whole, though the conditions of life are much easier, owing principally to the genial climate and fertile soil, household expenditure for articles of food produced in the country may be said to be 50 per cent. less than in Europe, whilst the cost of all European products is at least 25 per cent. more, owing to the cost and risk of transit on mule and camel back.

In Angora an adult male can secure all the necessaries of life, and a fair proportion of what may be considered luxuries, such as coffee, sugar, and tobacco, for an expenditure of 1*s.* 2*d.* per diem. One very heavy item of current expenditure must not be overlooked—that is, the provincial and imperial taxes, which amount to not less than 2*l.* per head per annum in money and a tenth of produce in kind.

The Christians, in addition, have to support the church and school establishments of the various communities, which, although voluntary to a certain extent, cost on an average 1*l.* 10*s.* per head additional for each adult male; there are no available means of using compulsory measures with those who are unwilling or unable to pay these purely sectarian imposts, so that the proportion of the destitute is allotted to those who have more means or more devotion, so that this charge really amounts to 2*l.* per head also.

II.—*Trade and Commerce.*

The exports of the province are mohair, goat's-hair, sheep's-wool, opium, yellow berries, gums, silk cocoons, and native rugs and carpets. A comparative estimate of the amount and value of these products for the years 1877-78 is appended:—

Mohair.

Markets.	1877.		1878.	
	Weight in lbs.	Value.	Weight in lbs.	Value.
		£		£
Angora	1,190,000	178,500	998,000	124,650
Beybazar	595,000	89,000	480,000	54,380
Sivrihissar	602,000	95,600	408,000	51,570
Tchangora	340,000	51,000	280,000	37,200
Yozgat, &c.	204,000	30,000	193,000	24,800
Nullaham	119,000	17,850	98,500	14,000
Total	..	462,550	..	307,600

Oil cake.

Markets.	1877.		1878.	
	Weight in lbs.	Value.	Weight in lbs.	Value.
		£		£
Angora	30,600	22,500	42,200	21,100
Beybazar	25,500	19,025	29,400	14,700
Sivrihissar	35,800	17,850	30,700	15,350
Nullaham	20,400	15,300	22,600	11,300
Total	..	74,975	..	62,450

Yellow-berries.

Markets.	1877.		1878.	
	Bags of 170 lbs. weight.	Value.	Bags of 170 lbs. weight.	Value.
		£		£
Kighserai	2,000	9,000	2,200	8,250
Iskiliss	1,000	4,500	800	2,800
Angora	500	1,500	400	1,250
Total	..	15,000	..	12,300

Kyrat or Gum Tragacanth.

Markets.	1877.		1878.	
	Cases of 224 lbs. weight.	Value.	Cases of 224 lbs. weight.	Value.
		£		£
Yozgat	300	15,300	350	12,100
Iskiliss	150	7,650	160	6,800
Ceseres or Kighserai	100	5,000	100	4,200
Kalydjick	100	5,000	..	..
Angora	50	2,500	30	1,350
Total	..	35,350	..	26,050

Silk cocoons are only exported from one district of the province called Nullaham, from which they are forwarded to the silk factories of Broussa.

The value for 1877 was 3,200*l.*; 1878, 2,800*l.*

Rugs and carpets are a special product of Kurshcir, and are exported thence to Smyrna, Mersin, and Adana. The value of this export was for 1877, 5,880*l.*; 1878, 3,720*l.*

The export of Angora washed sheep's-wool was a very large one previous to the famines of 1873-74, but this industry has not yet recovered from the destruction of the flocks that then occurred. Any sheep's-wool on hand is absorbed for local requirements, or requisitioned for the use of the army in Europe.

It is apparent from the foregoing that, as compared with 1877, the year 1878 represented a slight falling off in the quantity of the principal articles of export, and a large reduction in the value received by the producers. This depreciation, caused by the commercial depression in England and elsewhere, has been severely felt in this province, all the more indeed, as it continues unchecked without any present prospect of amelioration.

Mohair that was worth 3*s.* 7*d.* per pound in Bradford in 1877 fell to 2*s.* 6*d.* per pound in 1878, and is at present difficult of sale even at 1*s.* 8*d.* per pound. Yellow-berries and Gum Tragacanth have depreciated in value in the same ratio, and opium, although maintained in value, was less than half a crop owing to a rainless spring.

The total amount and value of exports will accordingly show a still further reduction for 1879-80 when the season closes in February of the latter year. This constant diminution of the wealth and annual income of the province reacts unfavourably on the public revenue and adds sensibly to the mass of poverty, the

evident restlessness and feverish misery of the populace, tendencies which showed themselves first during the war, and have gone on increasing ever since.

The imports consist of colonials, metals, cotton and woollen goods for clothing. The business done in these is undoubtedly a large one, but it has been found quite impossible to secure any reliable statistics with regard to it. The best authorities estimate the amount for 1874 (the year previous to the famine) at 580,000*l.* Since then it decreased rapidly year by year, till in 1878 it did not exceed 202,000*l.* This year (1879), owing to the demonetization of caimé and the return to specie payments, there has been a slight improvement in the demand for imports, and it is confidently expected that ere the close of the season the total will exceed 250,000*l.*

The domestic trade of the province consists in the retail sale and purchase of articles of food produced within the province itself, without being exported. In such articles as mohair, yarn, stockings, cravats, and gloves, there is also a small domestic trade, but these are spun, woven, or knitted at home, and sold in the houses by the women and girls who make them.

As regards the market prices of raw and manufactured articles, horses, cattle, and food, the raw products are :—

	Market price.
Cotton	4*d.* per lb.
Wool—	
Greasy	5½*d.* per lb.
Washed	11*d.* per lb.
Mohair	1s. 3*d.* to 1s. 6*d.* per lb.
Goat and sheep skins—	
Salted	1s. to 2s. each.
Dressed	2s. 6*d.* to 3s. 6*d.* each.
Hides—	
Salted	4s. to 6s. each.
Dressed	18s. to 27s. each.
Morocco leather in all colours	5s. to 7s. each.
Horses—	
Ordinary draught animals	3*l.* to 5*l.* each.
For riding	8*l.* to 12*l.* each.
Mules	15*l.* to 20*l.* each.
Asses	1*l.* to 3*l.* each.
Oxen, for ploughing and use in carts	10*l.* to 12*l.* per pair.
Buffaloes (male), for ditto	20*l.* to 30*l.* per pair.
Bulls	3*l.* to 5*l.* each.
Milch cows	2*l.* to 5*l.* each.
Milch buffaloes	8*l.* to 12*l.* each.
Sheep (for slaughter)	8s. to 12s. each.
Rams (for breeding)	21s. to 25s. each.
Goats—	
Common	5s. to 7s. 6*d.* each.
Mohair	18s. to 22s. each.
Mohair breeding rams	2*l.* to 5*l.* each.

The prices of the principal articles of food are as follows :—

Bread (fermented or leavened)	½*d.* per lb.
Meat (mutton, goat's flesh, &c.)	2½*d.* per lb.
Rice	1⅝*d.* per lb.
Butter	9*d.* per lb.
Wheat (hard and soft)	3s. per bushel.
Barley	1s. 7*d.* per bushel.
Flour	¾*d.* per lb.

It should be noted that the present prices of wheat and barley are abnormally high, being 33⅓ per centum higher than the average owing to the ravages of locusts in the neighbouring provinces and the constant demand for export.

There are no Tariffs, in the European sense, in Angora, but the Municipal Council occasionally impose what is called "nark," or fixed prices on articles of every day consumption, such as bread, meat, and charcoal. Fines are leviable on these regulations being disregarded, but as they are not systematically enforced, they are not obeyed either by buyers or sellers, and prices follow the ordinary rules of supply and demand. The only results are, that an occasional raid is made on the sellers by zaptiehs and a number of them fined, thus replenishing the empty coffers of the Municipality, or a private arrangement is made with "Abdi Begh," the Mayor or President, who (for a consideration) agrees to overlook the contravention of regulations imposed by his own Council.

Ancient custom and usage take the place of trade laws. There is certainly a Commercial Court, which administers a body of law, for the most part a literal

translation of part of the "Code Napoleon." These laws, however excellent they may be in themselves, are not suited to the peculiar usages of the people nor understood by them. The President, "Ahmet Begh," is a particularly ignorant and impracticable person, and in any difficult point of commercial law avoids committing himself by declining to give any decision at all, keeping cases in suspense for an indefinite time. During the years 1877-78, out of a roll of 260 causes a verdict was given in only four, and these only in consequence of the litigants being British subjects or agents, and official pressure being applied in consequence. The passive resistance of the President, however, often prevails over the utmost pressure that can be applied, and there is one case of fraudulent bankruptcy that I have been instructed to watch on behalf of British merchants, whose interests are involved, that has been on the roll for four years, and is not decided yet.

Banks do not yet exist in Angora, the banking business of the place, such as it is, being transacted by the merchants themselves.

Rates of exchange of the various kinds of currency, gold, mejidie, or silver coin, beshlik and altilik (a debased coinage), follow the ruling Constantinople rates, plus the expense of forwarding groups by post and the money changer's commission.

Rates of exchange on bills vary with the state of the export trade and the scarcity or abundance of money. When supply and demand are about equal, short-dated bills of exchange on Constantinople are bought and sold at par. When exports are being freely bought and money is scarce locally, a discount of ¾ per centum to 1½ per centum is accepted by the seller of the bill, and when exports are dull and money accumulates, an agio or premium of the same amount is paid by the buyer. These bills are drawn on Constantinople correspondents by the mohair and other export merchants, and bought by the dealers in imports as a means of remittance in payment of their purchases.

With regard to usury interest and the mode of making loans to peasants and others, it is unfortunately true that the making of loans for small sums for short periods at usurious interest to the Turkish peasantry is a great and increasing evil. The legal rate of interest here, as in other parts of Anatolia, is 1 per centum per month, and 1½ and even 2 per centum is frequently exacted and paid. These advances are made usually on the bond of the peasant who desires the loan, and being unable to read or write he is frequently defrauded in the amount of the advance or the rate of interest. For larger amounts, the loans are made on the security of produce or title-deeds of lands left in deposit. Christians borrow in the same way, but at easier rates, their security being realisable more readily, as it is in the form of diamonds, jewellery, title-deeds of house property, or produce ready for forwarding to Europe.

The usurers, who are mostly Christian capitalists, justify their charges plausibly enough, contending with much truth that if the Turkish peasant does not find it convenient to pay his debt, he easily excuses himself on the plea that he is only "spoiling an infidel" which his religion not only permits, but enjoins, and the local Turkish Courts cannot be induced to give judgment against a Turkish defendant in a suit for debt when the pursuer is a Christian; they either reduce interest or disallow it altogether, or give one or two years extended time, or (as most frequently happens) dismiss the case. When, however, the pursuer belongs to the ruling race and the defendant is Christian, then judgment is given in favour of the Turk with eager haste, and often without full inquiry, compound interest and costs being generally allowed.

III.—*Agriculture.*

The nature of the soil of this part of Anatolia is modified by the geological strata and the climatic conditions of the country. The mineralogical character of the rocks that underlies the surface is generally feldspathic, the trachytic and serpentine rocks abounding; the entire province is more or less mountainous and furrowed by deep valleys, its mean altitude being estimated at 2,900 feet; while the more elevated masses are generally shaded with fine forests, but the plateaus which form a large part of the country are very little wooded. This absence of trees, bushes, and arborescent plants gives the country the aspect of immense steppes.

This nudity permits the first heats of summer to dry up the little humidity which the earth has acquired in winter. The climate is extreme, the winters being very cold and the summers exceedingly hot, the intermediate seasons of spring and

autumn being, however, very genial and temperate. The country is covered with snow in winter, the rain and snow being very frequent, the thermometer in the city of Angora frequently descending to 12 degrees, 15 degrees, 18 degrees of the centigrade corresponding to 10·6 degrees, 5 degrees, and zero fahrenheit. The mountain soil carried down by the spring floods to the valleys and plateaus makes these exceedingly fertile, and suitable for the cultivation of cereals and vegetables. This fertility is greatly augmented wherever artificial irrigation is practicable. The proportion of land under cultivation is ascertainable from the returns made to Government for the "Emlakh" or land tax. The total area of the province is estimated by M. Vankovitch, the Government Civil Engineer, at 28,404 square miles, at 640 acres to the square mile, making 18,178,560 square acres; of this 2,710,128 is returned as under cultivation, or about one acre in seven on which the land tax is payable.

The nature of the crops raised has been indicated in the foregoing; all kinds of cereals, root crops for cattle fodder, and such vegetables as can be raised in a dry soil and warm atmosphere grow freely.

The average yield is from eight to ten fold, and in certain exceptional years, such as 1846 and 1875, has been as high as eighteen and twenty fold. The average might be greatly augmented were improved methods of cultivation and machinery introduced, and the tillers of the soil sufficiently educated and progressive to understand and apply them.

It is evident from the list of exports of the province that the principal wealth of the inhabitants consists in the live stock they rear and the produce thereof in the shape of mohair, wool, hides and skins. The number of such cattle is consequently considerable, and as a large proportion of the provincial revenue is derived from the tax on sheep and goats, the number of these is ascertainable with some approach to accuracy. For the financial year March 1878 to March 1879 the tax was paid on 1,308,168 sheep and common goats, and on 1,204,651 mohair goats.

There being no tax on larger cattle, such as buffaloes, oxen, cows, &c., the Local Government does not take the trouble to collect statistics regarding them, but the best informed authorities estimate the number as high as 1,250,000, and as every household, whether in town or country, possesses at least one cow, this total does not seem to be exaggerated.

The vegetable produce of the province is both varied and valuable. The yellow-berry (the fruit of a species of buckthorn—the *Rhamnus infectorius* of Linnæus) being formerly an article of great value as an export, much labour and expense was bestowed on its cultivation. Owing to its use as a dye having been superseded by the discovery of the brilliant colouring properties of chromate of iron, the total export is reduced to a fourth and its value to one-tenth of what it realized previous to 1870, but there are still 341 plantations reserved for its cultivation.

Of irrigated grass and clover fields there are 263; vineyards and orchards no fewer than 9,565; market-gardens 293; and melon-grounds 297.

These figures are those for the Angora department only, there being unfortunately no returns for the other three departments, but with the exception of Kighserai these also are equally productive.

The produce of these orchards and gardens in detail is as follows:—

Apples.	Damsons.	Grapes.
Pears.	Walnuts.	Musk melons.
Quinces.	Almonds (sweet and bitter).	Water melons.
Peaches.	Chesnuts.	Mulberries (white and black).
Medlars.	Hazelnuts.	Currants (white, black, and red).
Apricots.	Cherry.	Strawberries.
Plums.	Morello cherry.	Raspberries.

Roots are as under:—

Beetroot.	Mangle-wurzel.	Radish.
Carrot.	Potatoes.	Turnip.
Jerusalem artichoke.	Parsnips.	

Vegetables and salad plants are as follows:—

Artichoke.	Cresses.	Onion.
Bamia.	Egg plant.	Parsley.
Bean.	Endive.	Pea.
Beans (French and Turkish).	Garlic.	Spinach.
Cabbage.	Lentils.	Tomato.
Celery.	Leeks.	Vegetable marrow.
Cucumbers.	Lettuce.	

The common pot-herbs, basil, marjoram, mint, and rue are also cultivated.

Amongst the fruits, the Angora apples and pears, particularly the winter varieties, are noteworthy. These are known locally as "English," because introduced by early English resident members of the old "Levant Company," who resided here from 1639 to 1768; they are of large size, and yet of peculiarly delicate flavour; collected in October they become ripe towards the close of the year. Although greatly esteemed in Europe, it is rarely possible to send them there, as the long journey of twenty to twenty-five days on mule-back destroys the fine aroma and flavour for which they are prized.

Were a railway, or even a passable waggon-road, constructed, the commerce in these and many other varieties of green and dried fruit would be augmented, and soon become profitable to the grower and satisfactory to the consumer. At present, such is the insoluble nature of the transport-problem, that I have seen, in a good season, in large orchards, the branches breaking with the load of fruit which was rotting where it hung or fell because it did not pay anyone to collect it—worthless locally because of the over-supply, and impossible to export because of the cost of carriage being more than the value on reaching the market. Amongst special products should also be included honey, that of Angora being beautifully white and transparent. In favourable seasons, when spring rains are abundant and the vast plateaus and southern hill-slopes are carpeted with aromatic wild flowers, it is produced in great abundance, although the scientific appliances of the modern bee-master are quite unknown, the Angora hive being merely a rough cylinder of wicker-ware plastered outside with clay. As it is of value locally only for the bees'-wax, this ought also to be exported, but it requires so much care and expense in packing, so as to reach Europe in proper condition and stand knocking about on mule-back, that this also is abandoned in despair.

IV.—*Public Works.*

A courier post connects the province with the capital from the westward, and, passing through the city of Angora, has Kighserai as terminus. Leaving Constantinople every Sunday, it reaches Kighserai that day week, returning the following Thursday the Angora bags, which are the heaviest portion both officially and commercially, being made up every Saturday evening. The lowest rate charged is 1½ piastre, which, at the present exchange, is equal to 2½*d*., and the cost is so great a drawback that it is quite a remunerative industry engaged in by many to collect a number of small letters at a lower charge than the regulation one and forward them under one cover. The postal revenue from the carriage of money groups is a large one, as in the absence of banking facilities large sums are sent and received by post every week, the charges ranging from ¾ per centum for gold to 3½ per centum for "beshlik."

The Province of Angora has 587 miles of telegraphs. The telegraphic centre is at Yozgat, the line to the city of Angora being a loop one, connecting Kursheir and Kighserai with Yozgat. The line from Ismidt to Yozgat and Sivas is a triple one: (1) Central Government Service; (2) Interior Official Service; (3) Commercial Service in the Turkish language. There is a fourth or special wire for Indian and international messages in European languages; both lines run nearly parallel with the post road.

There is a separate staff of employés for the Turkish and European services, the former service being slow, uncertain, and inaccurate, the Turkish clerks being notoriously addicted to divulging contents of despatches that pass through their hands when paid for doing so. The European service contrasts favourably with the other in every respect; the employés, being all Europeans or native Christians trained in Europe, are reliable and expert, forming as a whole the most creditable corps of officials in the public service of the Empire.

In July 1878, on the Anglo-Turkish Convention being made public, the Eastern Telegraph Company made the Ottoman Government an offer to hire the Turkish and Indian lines for a term of twenty-five years, paying an annual rental of 8,000*l*., contracting to maintain all the lines in thorough repair and re-engage the entire staff of inspectors, station-masters, sergeants, clerks, and workmen: the present stations would have been retained and many new ones opened, the whole service from Scutari on the Bosphorus to Fao on the Persian Gulf would have been reorganized, greatly to the advantage of the public and the profit of the Govern-

ment, but although it has been under consideration for upwards of a year, the Porte has been unable to decide either upon accepting or declining it.

The mode in which repairs are executed is as follows:—

Each station reports every year regarding requisite repairs to Chief of Section, he in turn reports to Inspector and Head Superintendent at Ismidt, and he to the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs at Constantinople. The Director-General authorizes these repairs by an order, sending with it a "havalé," or budget order, for the expenses of the year (including salaries as well as outlay), to the Governor-General of each vilayet or province. The Governor-General distributes these to the sandjaks or departments of the province, according to an average estimated on their receipts. The working staff attached to each principal station is responsible for executing the repairs and extensions, that staff being under the command of a "bash-tchaoush," or sergeant, and accompanied by a civil employé belonging to the Treasury Department of the province, who is charged with payment of all charges for carts, labour, &c. This employé keeps account, which the sergeant checks, and they are certified by the Moslem priest and Headman of the village whose material has been used, and whose inhabitants have been employed. This labour is certainly compulsory, but is paid for in ready money, at a fixed rate, and is therefore popular with the villagers, and it is difficult to see how telegraph repairs could be executed in any other way in a country so thinly populated as this part of Anatolia.

For the cutting and transport of poles forced labour was employed, both the Local Government and the Telegraph Department refusing to make the poor villagers any compensation whatever; but owing to remonstrances made through this Vice-Consulate to the authorities here, and through the British Embassy to the Director-General at Constantinople, this injustice has been abandoned, and this year the contract for three out of the four Departments was offered to the public by advertisement, the lowest tender being accepted. It is remarked that the contract poles are of much better quality, and likely to prove more durable, than those supplied by forced and unwilling labour. In some other districts these poles are paid for by means of "sergiss," a kind of formal receipt, which is accepted by the Local Government instead of money when tendered in payment of taxes.

The roads of the province are in the most deplorable condition possible. Previous to 1874, occasional efforts were made to repair and improve existing highways, by means of collecting road taxes from the Christian inhabitants, and utilizing the forced labour of the Moslems, and considerable funds were in hand for the purpose, but these were all absorbed by the military necessities of the Central Government previous to and during the war, and although it is admitted on all hands that a passable waggon road to the sea coast is the one crying want of the whole province, it is impossible not merely to have something done towards its accomplishment, but even to secure official attention to its necessity. "We have no money for such things, unless Europe lets us have it," is the invariable reply; but this is a fallacy, for both money and labour would be forthcoming in sufficiency if only the work was confided to competent English engineers, thereby giving the people confidence that the work would be done, and well done, and that the funds they provided were no longer raised in pretence of making roads and causeways, and yet secretly remitted to Constantinople to meet the necessities of palace expenditure there.

The history of railway enterprise in this province would be a tedious detail of projections made but never effected; surveys undertaken, but never carried out, and works begun but abandoned ere they had made any progress. On the subject of "the suitability of the province for railways" a special Report was prepared, which received the approval of Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and will be found annexed to this Report (see Appendix A).

Although the province is intersected by two large rivers—the Sakaria (the ancient Sangarius) and the Kizil Irmack (the ancient Halys), no canalizing works have yet been undertaken. "Haidar Effendi," a former Governor-General, a very intelligent and capable ruler, projected a canal to unite the two rivers, and not only promote intercommunication by so doing, but thereby irrigate two great plateaus which have excellent soil, and only want water to make them extremely fertile.

Previous to the Turkish conquest, it is evident that "Galatia," as it was then called, was well supplied with numerous stone bridges, and the ruined remains of those ancient Roman works are still in use, the broken arches and causeways being

eked out by modern planks and timbers. The state of all may be understood from the condition of one of the principal—the "Hyder" bridge, over the Sakaria between Sivrihissar and Angora. Many remonstrances and official representations have been made to the authorities on the subject, the Embassy has secured orders from the Minister of Public Works, all to no purpose, the bridge remains in the condition described in Report annexed (Appendix B).

V.—*General.*

The Turkish system of Land Tenure is a very involved and elaborate one, extremely difficult for a foreigner to comprehend, and equally difficult when understood to explain clearly to others. The central idea or theory of the whole system seems to be that all Turkish territory belongs, by right of conquest to the Central Government, which has the sole right of disposing of it by gift, sale, or rental, permanently, or for longer or shorter periods, as the case may be. A number of checks and devices have been incorporated into the Land Law, with the obvious intention of making landed property revert to the State from time to time, to be disposed of again as it may see fit.

There are five different classes or varieties of tenure, which are as follows:—

1. "Moolk," or property to which the Government has surrendered all claim, except on unusual occasions, such as war, invasion, or confiscation for high treason. This class is subdivided into four kinds:—

(1.) All streets, byeways, or roads (other than highways) which are supposed to have been conceded by the State for the convenience of its subjects.

(2.) Transferable estate, which can be bought or sold by any one on securing the formal permit and certificate of the "Landed Estates Department," which has its Central Bureau and Registers at the capital, and branches at the head-quarters of each Governor-General and province of the Empire.

(3.) "Usherey é," *i.e.*, all cultivated land bearing crops on which a tithe is due to the Government.

(4.) "Harrajié," or State lands gifted to Moslem or Christian subjects and their heirs, for distinguished public services, and which, failing direct or legitimate heirs, reverts again to the State. Belonging to this class is what is called "intikhal," landed property, the owner of which, in dying, bequeaths it to his legitimate heir or heirs, there being another, though rare variety of property, which may be bequeathed to some person or persons who are not the descendants or relatives of the testator.

2. The second class, called "Arazie Miriyé," and includes uncultivated or waste lands, natural pastures, woodlands, belonging nominally to the State and not included in any of the previous categories. Occasionally these lands are hired from Government in consideration of an annual rental, or are leased for a period of years.

These lands are also sold by Government on condition of being cultivated, and if left uncultivated for a period exceeding three years, and no good reason being given, such as military service, &c., this land becomes what is called "Mahlod," and reverts again to Government and may be resold, the previous owner having no legal claim for compensation for improvements effected during his occupation. This class is sometimes called "Tapoo" also, and were this curious law strictly enforced there is reason to believe that more than one-half of the extensive arable land and grazing grounds of this province would have long ago reverted to the State instead of being enjoyed by the nominal owners of them.

The officials employed by the "Landed Estates Department" entirely neglect the enforcement of the three years' rule, the reason of their apparent negligence being that the proprietors of such estates pay them an occasional tribute to prevent the condition of their lands being reported.

3. The third class is "Mevkoof" or "Vacouf" (pious foundations), which are of three kinds: (1) lands conceded by the Sovereign as an endowment for mosques, colleges, and schools; (2) lands bequeathed by individuals for the same purposes; (3) State lands, the tithe revenue of which is conferred as a gift on distinguished Moslems, the individual so favoured receiving for his own use and benefit the grain tithe of a certain tract of land set apart for the purpose on condition of his instructing a certain number of Moslem youths in the Koran and the Mahommedan Civil and Canon Law, or providing a comfortable meal of soup, boiled rice, and

bread to all passing travellers of whatever creed who may claim or be in need of his hospitality. The other land taxes, &c., are paid to the local authority. As usual, and on the death of the holder, the privilege descends to the nearest or any male relative who may be qualified or willing to implement the condition; failing such a descendant the nearest village community is authorized to elect the successor.

4. The fourth class, "Metroki," is of two kinds: (1) public highways and post roads; and (2) lands bestowed as a gift not on individuals but on communities, villages, towns, and cities as such.

5. The fifth class, "Mevat," means "small detached pieces" of State land situated between the boundaries of private individuals or communities. The theory of this species of tenure is that the pasture lands of a village and the fields of the inhabitants should not extend for more than a certain distance from that village, so that conflicts or quarrels with the neighbouring village may be avoided.

The manner in which this limit is ascertained is thoroughly Turkish. One of the villagers stationed on the steps or minaret of the mosque calls as loud as he can without straining his voice; the point at which his voice can be no longer heard is the limit of the village property and right of grazing; at the neighbouring village the same performance is gone through, and the land situated between these two points is "mevat," and claimed by the State accordingly. It may be let of course to one village or the other, or a part to each, but the rental goes to the local authority. This plan, devised originally to prevent quarrels and law suits, is the most fruitful cause of both; but the "Landed Estates Department" eagerly contests such causes, as it gains in costs and fees from both litigants, and often secures additional land as well.

On the whole, the land tenure system of Turkey cannot be considered a successful one; it would take an able lawyer a lifetime to study and master all its intricate details and the mass of precedents that have grown up around it. It fully answers what was probably its original purpose in keeping landed property in the hands either of Government or Moslem subjects; but, as neither of these have the capital, skill, or energy to farm it to advantage, Christians or foreigners who could do it are prevented owing to the extreme difficulty in purchasing land, and, when purchased, getting a clear title for the possession and enjoyment of it. Those who do persevere and surmount the first difficulties find to their cost that some law or bye-law or precedent can be established against them, thereby entailing endless litigation and heavy expenses, so that, although many experiments have been made in order to develop the natural fertility and almost boundless resources of the country, most of such enterprises have, after a time, either to be abandoned altogether or worked by means of Moslem agents, the real proprietors keeping carefully in the background.

The abuses in connection with the "Merkoof" or "Vacouf" tenures and the revenues derived from them are equally numerous and glaring. Not a tithe of these revenues are employed for the purposes for which the tenures were granted; the present holders of such properties are nearly all non-resident, and appropriating the entire income of their fiefs to their own uses, most of them passing their days in luxurious idleness in the capital or in the provincial towns. The institutions they are supposed to maintain are represented by crumbling mosques, deserted schools and colleges, dried-up fountains and water-courses, and ruined khans, where the passing traveller finds shelter neither for man or beast, instead of the substantial meal and comfortable quarters the kind-hearted benefactor of a past generation intended him to enjoy.

Many attempts have been made, both at Constantinople and in the province itself, to have a Commission appointed to deal with those abuses, and either apply those revenues to the purposes intended by the founders, or sequestrate them to form a fund for the better education of the people; but the class affected is so strong in wealth, privileges, and influence, that all these attempts have hitherto proved futile.

The taxes of the province, and their amount for the financial year 1294 (corresponding to the 13th March, 1878, to the 13th March, 1879), are as undernoted. The Finance Department here divides its receipts into four classes, which are as follows:—

Class 1.—Direct taxes, consisting of house and property tax, military service, exemption tax, &c.		131,871
Class 2.—Tithes and taxes farmed by Government and collected by others. These consist of tithes of grain, yellowberries, gums, tobacco, and opium; dues on fishing, timber cut in State forests, &c. ..		49,540
Class 3.—Tithes and taxes which, finding no buyers, were collected by Government, consisting of tithes of pulse, sheep and goat tax, tax on fullers-earth, revenue from stamped petition-papers, &c., rental of State pasture lands, &c.		114,351
Class 4.—Sundries, consisting of excise dues on the manufacture of wines and spirits, sale of unclaimed property, fines, gains on exchange, revenue from bakeries and sale of gunpowder, payments for title-deeds, &c.		11,209
Total		307,064

This total shows a falling off of at least 150,000*l.* from the average, owing to the constant depreciation and final repudiation of the paper currency, in which a large proportion of it was collected, and the extreme poverty and misery of a large part of the population, owing to the war, made many of the taxes unproductive, as they could not be collected except by means of sequestration and sale, a measure the Government was strongly urged not to adopt, as in the excited and restless state of public feeling peace and order would certainly have been disturbed.

The provincial revenue for 1879-80 is expected to show an increase on the previous year of at least 200,000*l.*, the tithes and sheep-tax having realized more than double, and the direct taxes, being collected in specie, have also shown a marked increase.

The collection of this revenue is effected in various ways. The Treasury at Constantinople draws bonds called "havalé" on the direct taxes and also on the estimated value of the tithes, and these are given in payment of goods supplied to the various military and naval departments having their head-quarters at the capital, or else disposed of in the open market at a discount varying from 20 to 33⅓ per cent. These havalé bonds, when accepted by the local Treasury, are either paid in Angora with more or less promptitude, or, as generally happens, are exchanged for fresh havalé bonds on the various sandjaks and districts into which the province is divided. The results of this extraordinary system of finance are deplorable in every way, as it reduces the provincial accounts to a condition simply chaotic, and has been carried to such a pitch that a larger amount is drawn for and pledged for ready money payments than the revenue supplies, and no margin is left for the current expenses of Government, which are increased in obedience to orders from the Porte in a larger proportion than the available revenue is diminished. The alternative mode of collection for any classes of revenue not thus allotted at Constantinople is by means of tax-gatherers, who are appointed by the various communities and recognized by the local authority. They are accompanied on their rounds by a zaptieh, and, in cases of resistance, are authorized to take with them as many as they deem necessary. The taxes are not paid either promptly or cheerfully; a kind of passive resistance is opposed to every demand, which is often successful, and every year shows a large amount of what is known as "bakia" (unavailable arrears), which are periodically remitted by the Central Government in periods of drought or famine, a concession which is, however, received with derision by those who are expected to acknowledge it with gratitude.

The cultivation of land by communes is extremely rare in this province. It is effected by households, all the members, even women and young children, taking a share in field labour or herding the animals in stock-farms. The peculiarity of Turkish farming is, that the cultivator or grazier has almost invariably a moneyed partner, generally non-resident, who undertakes the payment of all taxes payable in money, makes advances for implements or additional purchases of stock or land, the two keeping a joint account, and after deducting expenses and interest on capital, dividing the proceeds in proportions that vary, but generally half and half.

There are no special arrangements for public safety except those undertaken by the zaptieh or military police force, the numbers and efficiency of which are undernoted.

This zaptieh force is a volunteer military police. There are both horse and foot, they are enrolled permanently, and are supposed to belong to the force during good conduct; in effect, however, such conduct is so rare that they are being constantly changed. For the entire Province of Angora, with an area nearly as

large as Ireland, the Government has at its disposal 750 foot and 1,000 mounted men.

These would almost suffice if they were disciplined and efficient, but they are far from being either.

Their pay is as follows:—For foot soldiers 80 piastres beshlik per month, or 14s., and for mounted soldiers 120 piastres beshlik, or a little less than 20s. per month. They receive also a measure of barley and a quantity of chopped straw for their horses from the Government stores. The mounted zaptiehs supply their own horses, and the cost of uniform and great-coat, about 3*l.* 3s., is deducted from their wages, and the re-clothing of the force is consequently postponed as long as possible, with the result that new uniforms have been issued only twice in twelve years. The duties of the foot soldiers are to act as sentries at the prison and the various Law Courts, to make arrests in or near town, to assist tax-gatherers in their duty, and to patrol the streets after sunset—a part of their duty which is, however, always omitted. The mounted zaptiehs escort the post from stage to stage, and convey officials or foreign travellers to their destinations. They also convey Government documents from the seat of government to the various departments and districts, and are also charged with keeping the roads free from brigands—a duty which, however, they fail signally in overtaking.

The men composing the force are Moslems; most of them have two, three, or four wives, with families in proportion, and it is clearly impossible they can live on their wages and be honest at the same time. Few of them make any pretence to honesty, and they tell me quite frankly that they cannot live on their pay, and have to supplement it how, when, or where they can. Many abuses occur in consequence; for instance, sent to serve a warrant and make an arrest, the person wanted gets quit of the zaptieh and his warrant by giving him a present to say he cannot be found, nor is he found till the opposing party gives a still bigger present to bring him. The Government must be well aware of all this, but seems powerless to prevent it.

Quite recently the Provincial Administrative Council received a telegram from the Porte that they must consider some plan of reducing the expense of the zaptieh establishment by at least one-half; after due deliberation, the Council replied that the number of officers (who are all appointed by the authorities at the capital) seemed excessive, but as regards the reduction of the numbers of rank and file and their pay, they expressed their total inability to suggest any mode of doing so.

The cure for these evils seems to be in the direction of opening the ranks to Christians as well as Moslems, to reducing the number and pay of the officers, both being quite out of proportion to the numbers and pay of the rank and file, and in the appointment of European drill-instructors and inspectors, who would soon make something of the really good raw material of which the force is composed. The money would, in my opinion, be forthcoming, for the Christians at all events would cheerfully pay an increased tax to have public safety secured, and be rid of the heavy indirect payments they are compelled to make under the present system.

The administration of justice is intrusted to the following Courts and Councils:—

1. Idaré Medjliss, or Administrative Council of the province, of which the Governor-General is *ex officio* President; the Provincial Treasurer, Secretary, Judge, and Commandant of Police have also seats; the various communities are represented by eight Moslem and six Christian Deputies, who are nominated by the people, and, if approved, appointed by the Governor-General. In addition to its civil and administrative powers this Council is the final Court of Appeal in all judicial causes for the province; the only higher authority to which appeal is only sometimes allowed being the Council of State at Constantinople.

2. Divan-Machkimey Istinaf, or Court of Appeal in all disputed decisions of the lower Tribunals.

3. Machkimey Bidaet, or Court of First Instance, divided into two Departments—Jinaet, or criminal charges, and Hookook, or civil justice.

4. Tidjaret, or Court of Commercial Causes.

5. Zabitan, or Court of Police.

6. Belledeye, or Court of Municipal Affairs.

The last three merely take evidence, examine witnesses, and report to the higher Tribunals, having no power to pronounce sentence.

These various Courts and Councils have all their counterparts in the various sandjaks or departments of the province, these reporting to the provincial Courts in

the capital of the vilayet, and these in turn to the higher Courts of the capital of the Empire. They are all in a state of abnormal confusion and transition at present, owing to the introduction of a number of so-called reforms, the result of diplomatic pressure applied by the Ambassadors of the European Powers.

The new staff consists of a Chief Inspector of Law Courts, and five Deputy Inspectors, a Procurator-General, with five Deputies; these have now been at work for some weeks. I fail to discover, however, that they have made the least impression on the heavy roll of unsettled lawsuits, many of which have been in suspense for years, whilst suitors in recent lawsuits, both civil and criminal, complain that the difficulties and delays of legal procedure are increased rather than diminished, whilst the necessity of making indirect payments, in order to insure progress or gain a verdict, is greatly augmented. It must be added that the salaries of this new staff constitute a permanent charge on the revenues of the provinces of no less than £T. 18,000 per annum.

The new laws and regulations these officials are called on to administer are published in the form of five pamphlets, or appendices, to the sixteen volumes of codified laws already issued. A careful perusal of them leads one to the conclusion that they have been for the most part literally translated and transcribed, with little alteration, from existing European codes. Many of them, though excellent in themselves, are unsuited to the habits and peculiarities of the people, and they leave untouched the great blots on the Turkish system of jurisprudence, namely, the practical inequality, before the law, of the Mahommedan and those professing other creeds than Mahommedanism; and the impunity with which Judicial Courts and Councils become both Prosecutor and Judge in vexatious causes often raised by themselves, with the object of extorting money or gratifying private pique.

The finance of the province is administered by a "Tefterdar," literally book-keeper, who is Provincial Treasurer, and has a staff consisting of Financial Director and twenty clerks. He has also under his orders a "Saraf," or banker, with five clerks. This Administration is represented in the departments by a "Sandook emin," or custodier of the money case, generally a Christian, who has two or more assistants, in proportion to the number of districts and villages included in the sandjak.

The system of holding appointments for five years is really carried out in the case of the Provincial Treasurer and his principal assistants. They are rarely dismissed, except for the grossest misconduct or reckless embezzlement; their posts are accordingly considered the most permanent and valuable in the whole Turkish Civil Service.

The present system of Government vests all the initiative with the Governor-General of the province. He is responsible for the entire official correspondence with the Porte, and all orders, inquiries, and replies are forwarded to him, and transmitted by him to the various officials, Courts, and Councils. Locally, all provincial affairs, from the most trifling to the most important, proceed by petitions, which must be received by Governor-General, countersigned by him, and distributed to the various Departments. If a case is overlooked, mismanaged, or unduly deferred, a fresh petition must be handed in, and carried from Department to Department anew. The meanest of those under his authority has free access to the Governor-General at all times, with the exception of the hours when the Administrative Council is sitting. Privacy and leisure are alike denied him; he passes his days buried under a mass of routine-papers, and, if energetic and industrious, is always engaged in a vain struggle to keep abreast of a mass of work beyond the powers of any one official. If indolent, sick, or absent, there is a terrible accumulation of arrears, and the whole machinery of administration seems to come to a standstill till the Governor-General begins work again. Government is accordingly carried out by fits and starts; for weeks at a time nothing whatever can be done, then a short interval of feverish activity intervenes, to be succeeded by the usual condition of dead-lock. This state of matters is aggravated by the very short tenure of power these Governors-General enjoy. The present Vali, Khourshood Pasha, is the ninth with whom I have transacted affairs in seven years, the average being little more than nine months' term of office.

Each change of Ministry at Constantinople involves, as a rule, a change of Governors-General throughout Anatolia, as the protégés of the new régime have to be provided for, and, besides this, the Porte seems to lend a very ready ear to complaints or petitions made by the Notables of the provinces and their friends and correspondents at the capital, as repeated complaints of this kind always end

in the Governor-General being changed or dismissed. There is no formal impeachment made or official inquiry held, the Governor-General simply receiving a telegram from the Grand Vizier that his services are dispensed with, or that he is transferred to another post. The effect of this on the Governor-General's official proceedings is to destroy all independence; he is forced, at any sacrifice, to conciliate this clique of Notables, as he knows well that, should he fail in doing so, a pretext to discredit him will be easily found.

In preparing the following notes on the state of public health, local diseases, and effects of season on climate, I have had the assistance of Dr. G. Michaelian, a graduate of Yale College, now resident here and practising his profession.

An important element in considering the state of public health is the construction of the city, town, or village inhabited. In building a city under Turkish régime, no art or skill is considered necessary; the materials are those furnished by nature close at hand, and the plan and formation are left to builders who have neither education, culture, or taste. The result is a confused mass of houses, of all shapes, sizes, and designs, set down as it were at random, the streets that intersect them being narrow, rough, and crooked.

The city of Angora is no exception to this general rule. The houses are mostly built of sun-dried mud bricks; a few are built of rough-dressed stones and clumsy timbers, but the prevailing feature of the city is the sombre mass of grey mud structures that rise one over the other in irregular terraces from the level of the plain to the summit of a steep hill which is crowned by a half-ruinous but picturesque old castle and citadel.

The sewerage of the city is very poor; many of the sewers are left open for months at a time, and the people pass them or even look into them with perfect composure. Many houses have no drainage whatever, and all superfluous matter, solid or liquid, is thrown into the next corner, or allowed to accumulate in some open space amongst the houses.

The streets are not only very dirty, but dead cats and dogs are never entirely wanting, and the filth accumulates until washed away by the first strong rain. In summer such rains are rare, and the streets remain dirty and polluted till the autumn or spring floods supply a temporary cleansing.

A sanitary authority is supposed to exist, having its head-quarters at Constantinople, and represented locally by the "Belledíye," or Council of Municipal Affairs; its existence, however, is merely nominal as far as sanitary measures are concerned. To introduce reforms in such matters and carry them out would require officials possessing culture and common sense, and who would, moreover, be incorruptible by bribes, and such officials are unfortunately extremely rare in Turkey.

There is, then, practically no sanitary authority in Angora, nor anything in the form of a Local Government Board of Public Health; such duties are intrusted to the "Belledíye" officers, who are notoriously incompetent and corrupt.

As far as the healthy or unhealthy condition of a city depends upon sanitary regulation, so far it must be admitted that the city of Angora is not healthy, but the situation and natural advantages of the place greatly modify this unhealthiness.

The Angora plain has an elevation of 3,335 feet above the level of the sea, and the hill already referred to, on which most of the city is built, has an elevation of at least 500 feet above the surrounding plain. The prevailing winds have, therefore, free access to the greater part of the city. To the westward, the plain stretches out towards the town of Istanos, 17 miles distant, and has an average breadth of 8 miles from north to south. To the northward, the city is built close to the edge of a precipitous declivity, at the foot of which is a beautiful valley, through which a stream makes its way which supplies water-power for several flour-mills, irrigates more than a hundred gardens, is frequented all day long by women engaged in washing; it carries off the refuse of several tanneries and the sewage of a considerable portion of the city. On the eastward the most prominent object is the "Elma Dagh," or Apple Mountain, from whence comes the best drinking water obtainable in the city. To the southward the land is somewhat undulating, and covered as far as the eye can reach with vineyards and orchards.

Angora being 33° 10′ east of Greenwich and 40° 5′ north latitude, it is located in the centre of the temperate zone, and, elevated as it is so far above the sea level, and open to the invigorating breezes from the Black Sea and Marmora, it is evident that its natural situation leaves nothing to be desired. Even the south winds from the Mediterranean, elsewhere relaxing and debilitating, are robbed of their moisture

ere reaching Angora, and are therefore harmless. The atmosphere is accordingly pure and dry, and has a most invigorating effect on the system, so that although the public health suffers from the ignorance of the people and the want of proper sanitary regulations, these evils are greatly counterbalanced by its dry and healthful atmosphere. Consumption, diphtheria, and catarrh are very rare diseases; pneumonia, asthma, and pleurisy make their appearance only during the short and severe winter. There are, of course, many fatal diseases caused by the ignorance, vice, and intemperance of the people, but the local diseases are malarious intermittent fevers, which make their appearance in an epidemic form during the summer and autumn seasons. Typhus and typhoid are seen very rarely, and if other malarious fevers, such as remittent, continuous, and pernicious do make their appearance in some exceptional year, they have rarely a fatal result.

What has been said about the city of Angora is true with regard to the towns and villages of the entire province—a regularly-planned or built town or village is unknown throughout its whole extent, and such a thing as a sanitary authority has not only no existence, but is unheard of even by name. For the good health and bodily vigour those villagers enjoy they have to thank Providence for the pure air they inhale; nor must it be forgotten that their diet and mode of life is singularly simple and natural.

It will be evident from the preceding details regarding agriculture that this province has peculiar facilities in the way of commissariat supplies, and under European management large quantities of wheat, barley, rice, fodder of every kind, would be available, and, with a sufficient number of draught animals at command, could be easily transported to any part of Anatolia. Bullocks, cows, sheep, and mohair goats for butcher meat could also be secured in cases of emergency in any number that might be desired.

During the late war the Turkish military authorities drew largely upon the resources of the province for provisioning the army in Bulgaria. These were in the form of forced contributions in kind, and included not only grain and live stock, but such articles as butter, quilted clothing for winter wear, and "pekmess," a kind of molasses made from boiled grapes.

As no part of the regular army is garrisoned in or near Angora, recruiting is entrusted entirely to special officers sent from Constantinople for the purpose; and as the recruits, when collected, are mere crowds of peasants, without arms or uniforms, it is quite impossible to procure reliable facts or statistics as to the system followed. From what I have observed personally the mode employed seems to be as follows:—

The recruiting officer on his arrival from the capital presents an order from the Seraskeriat, or War Office, for a specified number of recruits to be selected of age sufficient to render them liable for military service. The civil authorities thereupon supply the officer with lists of able-bodied youths in each village, district, or town under their authority, and also with orders to the various local authorities to give the recruiting officer all the assistance in their power. On his arrival at a village all the youths inscribed in the lists he carries are called together by the "imaum" (priest) and "mooktar" (head man), and out of, say, fifty youths thus brought up for inspection, his orders authorize him to select about twenty. All those who are the sole support of their households are released; out of a family of two or more adult brothers one only is selected. In this way, by a process of selection, the number required is gradually collected. These conscripts are sent, in the first instance, to the chief town of the district, from which they are marched on foot to Constantinople, a grant of 3*d.* per day being made them for their expenses *en route*. Arrived at the capital they are there enrolled, and drafted into the various battalions for which they are intended.

Military experts criticise severely this mode of recruitment, and there are, it must be admitted, certain obstructive regulations. It would be well if some means of amending these could be decided on. The military districts do not at all correspond with the civil, and conflicts of authority, delays, and difficulties occur in consequence. The men must suited for the navy are sent far inland, and those who have never seen the sea, but are born and trained horsemen, are placed on board ship. A special Report on these difficulties, prepared at the request of Osman Pasha, the Minister of War, and drawn up by Suleiman Effendi, a former Member of Parliament for the province, and a great authority with regard to such projected reforms, is added to this Report as Appendix C.

This province has not yet recovered from the effects of the late war and the

dispersion of the population caused by the constant levies made to recruit the various armies in Europe and Anatolia. The military district, of which Angora is the centre, is a very large one, much larger than the civil province; it is equivalent in population and extent to a third of the peninsula. Many of the regiments raised had been called to the standards during 1875-76 for active service in Montenegro and Herzegovina; and during 1877 the whole of its remaining enrolled troops, regulars, reserves, militia, and police force, were called out and sent on either to Bulgaria or Kars. In addition many companies of irregular horse or Bashi-Bazouks were raised; the number (nominal) was returned at 179,080 men, but the effective fell short of 128,000. The service being unpopular desertions were numerous, the male population of many villages escaping to the mountains *en masse* on the approach of the officers charged with collecting the conscripts.

Substitutes were readily accepted, as the officers looked upon sums realized in this way as perquisites, and the price of such men rose in a few weeks from 15 to 25 Turkish liras.

The populations thus scattered have not yet returned to their homes or avocations. The fields continue to be ploughed and the harvests garnered by women, children, and old men. Many of the Angora battalions are still under arms, forming, as they do, a considerable portion of the large standing army still retained in and about Constantinople.

The original number of war refugees allotted to the Angora province was 30,000, but up to the present date only 18,130 have arrived and been distributed in the different sandjaks.

The President of the Commission for Refugees states that the remaining 11,870 are still expected, and that some of them have already landed in the different ports of the Black Sea, and that others are already on their way hither. Of the 18,130 refugees who have arrived 7,280 have been allotted to the Angora Sandjak, and the remainder have been sent to Kighserai, Yozgat, and Kursheir. Details of the system organized by his Excellency Said Pasha, the previous Governor-General of the province, and carried out in the Settlement of the 3,230 allotted to Kursheir and Keskin, will be found in Appendix D.

This system of volunteer effort, which his Excellency worked so hard and so successfully to carry out, was superseded after his Excellency's removal to Kastambol by a highly paid official, and a large staff of assistants specially appointed by the Porte and sent to Angora.

This Commission is responsible for the later allotments that have taken place, and is also responsible for the complete failure that has been the result of their labours. The greater part (between 70 and 80 per cent.) of these war-refugees sent hither belong to the Tartar race. This class of refugees is very quiet and inoffensive, and when land is allotted them they prove themselves more intelligent and industrious than the resident population. The first arrivals who reached the province under Said Pasha's rule, as will be seen from Appendix D, found some preparation made for them. Waste lands were marked out and given them to cultivate, whilst a system of duplicate orders or tickets was organized, these being for daily rations of bread, which were handed them as the orders were presented. In this way they were at least kept alive during the winter months, and since then they have reaped their harvest, and appear to have settled down in their new homes without suffering any extreme privation.

Unfortunately, however, with the late arrivals all this has been changed. The new Commissioners content themselves with issuing orders to others, but do nothing personally towards providing food and shelter for these poor outcasts, who accordingly wander hither and thither in a vain search for the homes and means of livelihood which they were assured awaited them at the time they left Constantinople.

Others who arrived in large groups find temporary accommodation in ruined khans, deserted mosques, and even cattle inclosures, and have to wait for weeks and even months till some more permanent arrangements can be made for them. Sickness has in consequence prostrated many of them, and the rate of mortality has been very high. Local charity amongst the Christian communities seems to have exhausted itself in consequence of the miserably depressed state of commerce and the endless calls that have been made on private benevolence during the past three years; further, Government officials having undertaken the work acts as a discouragement to such benevolence; indeed, these officials resent such efforts as an interference with their affairs.

The Compassionate Fund in Constantinople having kindly remitted £ T. 250 to be employed in ameliorating as far as possible the condition of these refugees, it was with some difficulty the authorities were induced to give Dr. Michaelian authorization to visit these poor people professionally, and give medical aid to the many sick and dying amongst them.

The periodical reports of this devoted physician show that he has made upwards of 1,500 visits in the city and amongst the villages within a radius of 40 miles; that, besides single prescriptions, he has treated systematically 368 patients, and has had the satisfaction of rescuing nearly all from the certain fate which neglect and the want of the ordinary necessaries of life had prepared for them.

Several cases of special hardship, such as old men without relatives dying for want of succour, whole families prostrated by sickness, without any one to give them even a cup of water, were reported to the Commission, and some official pressure put upon them to make special arrangements for their relief.

One extraordinary case of a refugee only 12 years of age, called Nicola Mookail, sentenced for some unexplained reason to banishment for life, led to a long controversy and correspondence with the local authorities. That correspondence will be found in Appendix E.

Owing to the exertions of Her Majesty's Ambassador, Sir A. H. Layard, the child's release and pardon were secured, and he has recently been sent back to Constantinople to be placed under the care of the Greek Patriarch.

The existing trade routes have been referred to under the heading of "Public Works." The principal are as follows:—

1. The post road which crosses the province from Nulhahan on the west to Kaïsereh on the east.

2. The highway that enters the province from Broussa and Eskisheir connecting the market towns of Sivrihissar and Beybazar to Angora.

3. The north road to Kastambol and the Black Sea by way of Tchangora.

The most vital and pressing need of this important part of Anatolia is that these so-called highways, instead of being mere mule-tracks across country infested by brigands, should become passable roads easy for draught animals and carts, and safe for travellers; but in order to accomplish this material reform, a moral reform is necessary and is still more urgently required; instead of the present Local Government, always weak, often corrupt, yet sometimes perversely unjust and oppressive, an organized system of impoverishing many to enrich a few, a strong, just, and upright form of Government is required that will be a terror to evil-doers and a safeguard to those that do well—that will command the respect and confidence of the whole population, give ample security for peace and order, and so obtain for this province that liberal investment of native and foreign capital which it so much requires, and which would yield so satisfactory a return, but which, under the present system, is locked away or hidden in the earth.

Were such a form of Government once securely established, general contentment and prosperity would ensue as necessarily as day follows night, and this province, so many parts of which are at present practically inaccessible and dangerous to reside in, when reached would soon be intersected by constantly increasing trade routes, and the Angora Vilayet would attain the position which its situation and natural advantages point out as its future, namely, an entrepôt between east and west, exchanging the commodities of both, and a natural granary that would feed millions all around, and send a large surplus to the markets of Europe.

October 27, 1879.

Appendix.

(A.)

Copy of Report on Abandoned Works of Ismidt and Angora Railway, and the Suitability of the Province of Angora for Railway Enterprise.

THE earthworks of the Ismidt and Angora Railway are completed for a distance of 50 miles beyond Ismidt towards Angora, and for a distance of 28 miles from that city towards Ismidt. They are considerably damaged by the storms and floods of five winters, but could be repaired at little expense.

An immense quantity of railway plant that had been purchased and collected is stored here, and is still in a fairly good condition.

The contemplated route was by the Sakaria (ancient Sangarius) Valley, and presents few engineering difficulties; and, besides, passes within easy distances of the following important and populous towns—Eskisheir, Sivrihissar, Nullahan, Beybazar, Ayash, and Istanos. Angora, from its natural situation, would naturally form a central station, from which, ultimately, branch lines would reach the agricultural and pastoral districts around.

As regards the suitability of the province for remunerative railways, there can be no doubt whatever that, if economically constructed, they would pay satisfactory dividends. The passenger traffic would be considerable, as the whole population—particularly the Christian part of it—is a migratory one, and in spite of the expense, delay, and danger of the present mode of travelling on mule and horseback, thousands of families go and come to and from the capital every year, a tendency that would be greatly increased were a railway opened. The carriage of produce would, however, be the most profitable part of such an enterprise.

For the present slow and risky mode of transit by draught animals, 250 miles to Ismidt in twenty days, the merchants of this city pay as follows every year:—

	£
For mohair	50,000
„ wool	8,000
„ opium	3,000
„ gum tragacanth	2,000
„ yellowberries	1,000
Total	64,000

Estimating the other towns referred to, with regard to their importance, all exporting as they do similar special products, the additional sum would be as follows:—

	£
Eskisheir	16,000
Beybazar	15,000
Sivrihissar	9,000
Ayash	3,000
Nullahan	3,000
Istanos	1,000
Total	47,000

It is also noteworthy, that a line of railway would develop a large commerce in grain of various kinds, and also in green and dried fruit, in all of which the province is peculiarly rich, but which are meanwhile totally neglected owing to the expense and risk of carriage. In grain alone, it is estimated that 500,000 bushels of wheat and barley would be exported.

The amount paid for carriage of imports, consisting of cottons, prints, colonials, &c., is estimated at 30,000*l.* per annum, and is also greatly restricted, owing to the cost and delay of the present mode. The present rates of carriage on the more valuable exports and imports of the province would be cheerfully paid by merchants, to secure greater despatch and diminish the risk of damage.

Such articles as grain and fruit would require to be carried at special rates.

Labour is so abundant and cheap, that any number of stout active young men could be collected at 1*s.* 4*d.* per day for unskilled and 1*s.* 8*d.* per day for skilled labour. This class of labourers are singularly temperate in their mode of living, very submissive to authority, and would give far less trouble than the same number of English or Irish navvies, and the soil is of such a friable nature and so free from rocks and stones, that the price per cubic yard is much less than in Europe, apart altogether from the price of labour.

(B.)

Report on Ruinous Condition of Bridge over "Sakaria" River, called "Hyder Köpru," and the Obstruction to Commerce caused thereby.

A recent journey from Broussa to Angora was rendered much more tedious and dangerous owing to the ruinous condition of the bridge over the Sakaria at a place called Hadji Hyder, nine hours from Sivrihissar, fifteen hours from Angora. The river at this point being too deep and broad to be fordable, a long and dangerous détour, prolonging the journey by twelve hours, becomes needful; as this is one of the principal outlets of the province, its whole exports for Sivrihissar, Eskisheir, and Broussa, passing this bridge, its present condition is a great obstruction to commerce. The merchants and inhabitants at Sivrihissar and here entreated me to take the matter up, so on my arrival here I called on the Governor-General, Khoorshood Pasha, and handed him a formal memorandum on the subject. He promised immediate attention to the request, but as this is the third promise of the same kind that has been made me with reference to this broken bridge during the last year and a-half, it is doubtful whether it will be kept. This is much to be regretted, as the necessary repairs could be easily completed in a week. The reason why it is not attended to, thereby obstructing the commerce of a whole province, is so characteristic of interior administration as to be worth recording.

The banks of the river on both sides are Crown lands, and being uncultivated have been conceded to two Government officials called "Abdi-Begh" and "Shishmanoglou Bodos," with the permission to graze their goats thereon being accorded them, "in recognition of imminent services!"

Besides pasturage, the land produces immense quantities of a cane-like reed, which has a market value in this province, for making mats, stools, &c. The bridge being passable, the muleteers, camel-drivers, and travellers collect small loads of these, in passing, for sale for a few paras on arrival in the towns, but when the highway is impassable, owing to the broken bridge, the reeds are left undisturbed till it suits the occupiers to collect and dispose of them. Hence they resist to the utmost orders of the Local Government, and the pressure of public opinion as well, although it is contended that the collection of these reeds is not included in their concession, whilst the keeping of the bridge in repair certainly is.

(C.)

Translation of Special Report on suggested Reforms of the Turkish Law of Military Conscription, drawn up by Suleiman Effendi, Ex-M.P. for Province of Angora.

Having been informed that a Military Commission has been appointed under the distinguished presidency of Osman Pasha, and having been requested to make suggestions with regard to Army Reform, I have much pleasure in doing so, in the hope that my suggestions may be of some service to the State and people.

The following are what appears to me to call for amelioration or reform:—

1. When the head-quarters for a battalion of reserves is fixed on the distance of the divisional centre is disregarded; that is to say, the companies which ought to be united to the neighbouring head-quarters, near the villages and homes of the men composing those companies, are united instead with a head-quarter's establishment at thirty or forty hours' distance. The company of the district called Magara is a case in point. This village is close to Yozgat, but instead of the soldiers reporting

themselves at the Yozgat head-quarters have to march all the way to Angora, forty-two hours' distance; while some of the companies residing close to Angora have, on the other hand, to report themselves at Yozgat. These reserves, when assembled for drill or inspection, or summoned to active service, are therefore deprived for an unreasonably long time of the results of their agriculture or commerce, and, consequently, every one of them has to submit to a loss of time and money altogether in vain. Further, this arrangement of military centres involves much additional expense on account of the officers who are sent to collect those recruits, and in this respect the Treasury suffers loss without receiving any compensatory gain whatever. I would, therefore, suggest a rearrangement of the divisional centres, which would save soldiers wandering back and forward needlessly, and save the Treasury some portion of the excessive expenditure incurred for the travelling expenses of officers.

2. It is well known that many inhabitants of the sea-shore towns are from natural dexterity and training extremely well suited to become sailors and marines in the Imperial navy; and, further, that many of the Ashirate or Kurdish tribes have a hereditary faculty for horse exercises of all kinds, and would, therefore, make excellent cavalry. Under the present recruiting system, these inhabitants of coast towns are drilled as cavalry, and the Kurdish recruits, many of whom have never seen the sea in their lives, are sent on board the war vessels. I should therefore suggest as a desirable reform that the habits and training of the recruits should be taken into consideration before allotting them to the services for which they are required.

3. A clause in the present law provides that on recruits being selected a term of twenty-one days is permitted to pass before they are allotted to the camp or barracks provided for them. During this interval these youths are not looked after by any one, and seem to consider themselves at liberty to abandon business and labour of every kind, and, crowding into the towns, indulge in every form of vice and villainy. The results are deplorable, as they suffer afterwards both from poverty and disease. I would therefore suggest that this clause should be abrogated, and that as soon as a conscript is drawn by ballot, or selected by the responsible officer as a suitable recruit, he should be sent at once to the nearest camp or barrack, and drafted without delay into the company in which he has to serve. Should these suggestions of mine meet with the approval of his Excellency the Governor-General, I would beg respectfully that they should be forwarded by him to his Excellency the Commander-in-chief, in order that they may be submitted to the Commission now sitting, having for its object the reform of the Imperial Ottoman army.

(D.)

Translation of Report on the Distribution of 3,230 *War Refugees in the District of "Keskin," presented to His Excellency Said Pasha, Governor-General, and the Members of the Refugee Commission for the Province of Angora, October* 30, 1878.

Having been appointed by the Refugee Commission to visit and report on the suitability of the Keskin district for the settlement of a portion of the war refugees now on their way to this province, I have now the honour to hand you the following details, giving the results of that visit:—

Leaving Angora on Saturday, the 19th October, I reached Keskin the following afternoon, and at once commenced an itinerary from village to village, the results of which are summed up in the Annex No. 1, added to this Report.

On reaching Maaden, the residence of the Kaïmakam, I naturally expected to find Hadji Osman Agha (appointed by your Commission to accompany me) awaiting my arrival, but found to my surprise that he had not been advised, and was at that time at Tchoroum on other business. I begged the Kaïmakam to send for him at once, but he objected strongly to recalling him, and offered me instead one of the members of his Council. As I found, however, that this person could neither read nor write, and knew very little of the district, I declined his assistance, and made the rest of my inquiries and observations alone. As I made my going conditional on being accompanied by this official, your Commission will, no doubt, bear this in mind, should they not find my Report so full or complete as they would like.

Previous to my arrival no Refugee Commission had been appointed there; but I pointed out to the Kaïmakam that categoric instructions on this subject had been repeatedly sent; so a Commission was forthwith appointed. I found, however, that it was very difficult to get this Commission together, and when assembled had a very vague idea of the gravity and importance of the duty intrusted to them.

At Kursheir, also, no Commission has so far been appointed, and as the settlement of refugees in this region is likely to give more trouble than anywhere else, I would respectfully suggest that precise instructions on this subject should be sent without delay.

The Idaré Medjliss (Administrative Council) of Kursheir certainly has hitherto looked after this business, but your Commission would no doubt prefer that a separate Committee should be in correspondence with them.

I instructed the Maaden Commission to set to work at once to collect carts to bring in the refugees; and, ere returning, I was able to induce them to sanction the distribution of these poor people amongst the villages, in the way indicated in Appendix No. 2.

As will be seen from the statistics inclosed, the district traversed is remarkable for the large number of hamlets at distances of from a quarter to half an hour. Water is by no means abundant, but the valley soil is very fertile, and the uplands are covered with the finest pasturage for cattle of all kinds that can be found anywhere. The great difficulty is the want of proper timber for building purposes. There are, of course, clumps of willow and poplar trees everywhere, but the nearest forest for rafter wood is Tchitchek-dagh, eight to twelve hours off, and Oorloo-dagh for timber, twenty-two to thirty hours away. All the wood required will have to be carted these distances, unless some means can be found of forming rafts of suitable timber during winter in the upper reaches of the Kizil-Irmak, and floating these down to suitable landing-places with the spring floods.

Excellent stone for building purposes abounds everywhere, particularly at Maaden and Hassan-dédé. It is a soft, easily-worked, red sandstone, but becomes very hard on exposure to the atmosphere, and is very durable. With regard to suitable plans or sites for new villages the following appear to me the most desirable:—

Near the Kizil-Irmak, between the villages of Yakshahan, Aghlu, and Kirek, is an immense alluvial plain, only a small part of which is cultivated. Besides its proximity to the river there are several streams and fountains in the neighbourhood, whilst the necessary building materials might be brought by water. At a spot known as Cadi-oglou Mehmet-Deyermen, there are some clumps of trees which might be made available, and the neighbourhood is suitable for cotton cultivation and pasturage, as well as growing wheat and barley.

In the Kursheir district are the following:—

1. Akcash, 4 hours from Maaden, 10 hours from Kursheir, midway between the villages of Kenemy and Armoullu. Here there is plenty of water and rich alluvial soil.

2. Goeshnee, 3 hours from Maaden, 9 hours from Kursheir. Here there is great abundance of water, some wood, and excellent pasturage. The forests of Oorloo-dagh are 18 to 20 hours off. Better than any of these, however, would be the rebuilding of part of the town of Maaden, or sheltering the refugees in huts or tents, and inducing the Central Government to resume the abandoned silver and lead mines of the district. I was accompanied in this part of my journey by Messrs. Barclay, both eminent mining engineers, and have their authority for the following facts after a minute and careful examination of the ore and abandoned workings. The veins are quite unexhausted, and the ore contains so large a proportion of silver, lead, antimony, and gold, that it would pay to export it in its rough state and would realize a large price in Europe.

The invasion of water on which account the workings have been given up could be easily remedied, being caused by an error in commencing the mines, the simple precaution of building what is called technically a drift (or drain) having been neglected. The cost of this drift would be 1,800*l.*, and would at once clear the shafts of water. Were the Ottoman Government indisposed to resume the works, they might be induced to make a concession to a European Company which could be easily formed; the results would not only be increased revenue for the province, but abundant employment for the thousands of refugees as well as for the

many destitute and miserable of the resident population, who wander everywhere seeking work and bread and finding neither.

Annex No. 1.

Summary Results of Itinerary of Keskin District.

Names of Villages.	Number of Houses.	Number of Ruined Houses.	Remarks.
1. Yukshahun	122	81	
2. Hussandedé	60	39	A Kizilbash village; good stone.
3. Aghlu	250	121	
4. Yuva	89	19	
5. Chouflon	119	27	
6. Puzarjik	174	35	
7. Mahmatlyzir	62	17	
8. Mahmatlybaba	69	15	
9. Oulash	21	14	
10. Kairijali	124	69	
11. Kirek	39	19	
12. Mahmudlu	41	11	
13. Hadji Baba	20	20	
14. Balishi	32	19	
15. Cazikly	37	17	
16. Arab	13	9	
17. Gouchlli	118	15	
18. Akju-Kavak	42	13	
19. Essad-Momulu	34	10	
20. Kunjuler	21	7	
21. Babisheick	95	21	
22. Kuzmaya	82	17	
23. Kudujitz	183	38	
24. Kousélamak	49	15	
25. Kavali	91	39	
26. Ezelen	78	11	
27. Kavalkeui	29	13	
28. Sor-Jamush	19	7	
29. Beikedin	69	28	
30. Besh-pinchak	79	14	
31. Yakoubhassan	22	9	
32. Selmali	57	31	
33. Bekir-Beyobasi	149	58	
34. Yaimeli	52	12	Good building; sandstone and rouble.
35. Maaden	480	190	
36. Barak	30	8	A new Christian village of 11 houses opposite.
37. Karishdiron	15	13	
38. Yenikioi	10	14	Kizilbash village.
39. Hydarlédé	39	32	
40. Yenji	9	7	
41. Hulifeli	25	15	
42. Dilmen	19	14	
43. Beyobasi	107	47	
44. Baghshelli	53	28	
45. Essa Hadji	68	14	
46. Soiler	92	22	
Total	3,542	1,297	

Annex No. 2.

Distribution of Refugees amongst Villages of Keskin District.

	Number of Refugees Allotted.
1. Koforu Kairesi	62
2. Kavak „	13
3. Kara Hadjili Kairesi ..	12
4. Chelelu Kairesi	43
5. Choflevi „	15
6. Hadji Yusufu Kairesi ..	15
7. Ejeli Sheich „ ..	28
8. Ebesiloglou Chiflizhy ..	17
9. Mushne Kairesi	28
10. Muiderédé „	13
11. Gonour „	45
12. Donji Obasi „	25
13. Ammontlon „	50
14. Sulciman Agha Chiflik Magha Kebirti	17
15. Kavakagatch Kairesi	15
16. Gumushlu „	30
17. Saidi „	17
18. Hafourli „	20
19. Kassim Agha „	13
20. Kara Kissir „	15
21. Ali Buduk Bekir-am Kizla Magha Soulur Kairesi	30
22. Gopor Agha Kairesi	10
23. Hadji Ali Obasi Kairesi ..	14
24. Odura Suken Magha Kulpegi Kairesi	20
25. Shedit Obasi Kairesi	15
26. Emin Effendi „	22
27. Ali Buduk Eski Kishlar ..	20
28. Esser Momulu Kairesi ..	15
29. Kuzukli Kairesi	32
30. Arab „	15
31. Maaden Kassabasi	88
32. Kumshdjian Kairesi Magha Yeni Kioi Kairesi	25
33. Katchak Kairesi	17
34. Kavirikli „	42
35. Périt Minoulu Magha Coulukris Kirbikli Kairesi	15
36. Kubun Ousumler Kairesi ..	15
37. Aehli Kairesi	35
38. Hassandedé Kairesi	30
39. Ichumlu „	35
40. Yuva „	12
41. Yakshahun „	63
42. Périk „	10
43. Oulash „	10
44. Puzarjik „	40
45. Aehli Kavak „	15
46. Kavajuli „	37
47. Mahmatli Hayn vezi Kairesiler ..	45
48. Chalishli Kairesi	20
49. Abderampu Beyobasi ..	40
50. Hussein Kairesi	22
51. Kaphi Oba Magha Kara Hodjali	27
52. Tchéfikli Magha Ladgh-obasi ..	25
53. Balikhch Kairesi	15
54. Kulunguteh Kairesi	45
55. Mehmet Bey Obasi	17
56. Kilan Bey „	17
57. Izet-din Kairesi	23
58. Eski Tekè Kairesi „ ..	20
59. Hahitlu Magha Bum Obasi ..	32
60. Tchatali Kairesi	27
61. Tchilfa Magha Kretli Kairesi ..	25
62. Dagh Sokak Oushaji „ ..	25
63. Mehmet Kiuin Kushlasi veyeni yapan	20
64. Jathogak Magha Cara Baghorlou	30
65. Yagli Kebir Kushlasi ..	50
66. Feruun Kairesi Magha Barakli	20
67. Kodja Yel Kairesi	22
68. Jejeli Kirbas Kushla Kairesi ..	30
69. Kaladi Magha Shéreffi ..	15
70. Pishmak Chenes Yenilli Kairesi	20
71. Kirgin Kairesi	12
72. Elmaji Kupha Kairesi ..	20
73. Oubali Magha Silaehlit ..	20
74. Kara Kassik Kairesi ..	10
75. Buyukiden „ ..	10
76. Batli Bey Obasi	33
77. Coulouksis Kairesi	33
78. Kioshédouran Kairesi ..	15
79. Hudashlu „ ..	33
80. Aidin Sheich „ ..	50
81. Yagh-hassan „ ..	22
82. Kuil Kairesi	20
83. Mahmoud Eshreffi	13
84. Hadji Begh Kairesi	13
85. Gulni Kairesi	37
86. Godedé „	30
87. Caridar Shéreffi	30
88. Tuti Bolen Magha Boghra ..	22
89. Ak-konson Kairesi	15
90. Marsanor „	15
91. Tchuli Obasi	15
92. Sefi Hanli	15
93. Samachi Kairesi	8
94. Imamoglou Chesmesi Aaturderesi	43
95. Yuhuk Kairesi	15
96. Hunsali „	50
97. Desleali Magha Kara Kafili Kairesi	13
98. Sarimak Kairesi	20
99. Sheich Shami Kebir Kairesi ..	62
100. Sheich Shami Saghir „ ..	30
101. Dagh Halil Ingelisé ..	20
102. Sari Kuzuly Kairesi ..	35
103. Imouli Kairesi	20
104. Kustehli „	42
105. Kuleh Kushla	15
106. Kochumbaba Kenery Chiflik Magha Sofular Kairesi ..	15
107. Yenijeler Kairesi	30
108. Mushnak „	13
109. Alishibli „	22
110. Aivali „	15
111. Damjivé Essa Kuflu ..	25
112. Bagdhelli Konidi	30
113. Kenan Chulja Kairesi ..	12
114. Elmegazli Kairesi	10
115. Guzuk Guyulnyé Kar Kosseli ..	15
116. Sibirli Kurak Kairesi ..	15
117. Perna Shalugeli Kairesi ..	25
118. Tchatali Kairesi	30
119. Besli Bugolu Kairesi ..	27
120. Jahtili Kairesi	17
121. Emir „	15
122. Songer Dagh Obasi	12
123. Avshari Kebir	42
124. Avshari Sacoir	12
125. Kodja Bash Kurtoglou ..	15
126. Eelinli Kairesi	20
127. Algili „	12
128. Hadji Obasi	15
129. Kunhat Magha Tchenlé ..	15
130. Kamvekir Kairesi	30
131. Tchonkoul „	22
132. Terkeshan „	15
Total	3,230

(E.)

Correspondence regarding Case of "Nicola Mookail," a Child Refugee, Native of Malkara, Eastern Roumelia.

(No. 1.)

Translation of Official Memorandum Addressed to Acting Governor-General.

Angora, June 26, 1879.

Excellence,

I beg to inform you that a Greek boy named Nicola Mookail has arrived here from Constantinople viâ Beybazar. My correspondent there, Michè Anastasoglou, advises me of the child having reached that town on foot and in a miserable condition from fatigue and hunger. My correspondent further advises me that he obtained permission from the police authorities to let the child rest a few days, and has sent him on to Angora in charge of a muleteer, giving the Local Government of Beybazar a written guarantee for his safe arrival. I beg to advise your Excellency of the boy's safe arrival here, and to inform you that he brings with him an official letter signed by the Chief of Police, Constantinople, No. 66, date 3rd April, 1879, setting forth that the said Nicola Mookail, being a vagabond and frequently convicted of lawless conduct, is sentenced to banishment to Angora and forbidden to return to Constantinople during the term of his natural life. Such a severe sentence passed on a child not yet 12 years of age seems to call for inquiry, and I have the honour to advise you that I shall send full particulars of the case to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. Pending the arrival of instructions from Her Majesty's Ambassador, I have the honour to request that the child may be handed over to my care, and that you will be good enough to accept this memorandum as an official guarantee of the child being in safe keeping, and discharge accordingly the guarantee given by my Beybazar correspondent, taking the trouble to let that Government know of the boy's arrival here.

(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL,
Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

(No. 2.)

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, July 12, 1879.

Sir,

I beg to call your Excellency's attention to the case of a boy aged 10 years, banished for life as a convict to this city, who arrived here on foot in the custody of zaptiehs on the 7th instant. He is called Nicola Mookail, of Greek parentage, belonging to the village of Malkara, in Eastern Roumelia. On my attention being called to the case, I at once wrote the authorities on the subject.

I found that no provision whatever had been made for him, and that their intention was to confine him in the common prison amongst the usual crowd of malefactors. I offered to become guarantee for his due appearance when called on, and took him over to be clothed, fed, and educated at my own expense. The child was of course in deplorable condition after having made so long a journey on foot, but he is rapidly recovering under the judicious care of the Greek priest, with whom I have placed him, who reports favourably on his obedience and attention to his studies.

I fortunately secured the "Emirnamey" and "hoorjoorooltoo" sent with him, which I have the honour to hand you inclosed. He is vaguely accused therein of lawless conduct and previous conviction, but such charges are absurd on the face of them. The real offence seems to have been that his parents having been killed, or having absconded during the attack on their village, he was picked up by the Russians, and being an active, intelligent little fellow, was employed by them to help the artillery ostlers. He followed the army in this way to San Stefano, and remained behind when they retired; he was arrested shortly afterwards, thrown into prison, and had been confined there till May last, when he was sent into exile here.

I have reason to believe that there are twenty-three such children still confined in the Babou zaptieh, Stamboul, eight of these girls, the rest boys; some of the older ones are in fetters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

(No. 3.)

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, July 19, 1879.

Sir,

I beg to inform you further regarding the case of Nicola Mookail, of Malkara, the child of ten years sentenced to banishment here for life, referred to in my despatch of the 17th current.

I have been informed unofficially that the case has been debated in the Administrative Council of the province, that in addition to the order inclosed in my last, a further order has been received directing them to send on the child to Yozgat, 160 miles eastward, to remain under police surveillance there.

Such being the case my offer of becoming guarantee will be declined, and I will be called upon to give him up. Fifteen to twenty days will probably elapse ere the official notification reaches me, and as so long a journey after the hardships and sufferings he has already undergone will certainly prove fatal to the poor child, I would therefore respectfully suggest that either a free pardon should be secured for him, or that permission should be granted for him to remain in Angora, where his subsistence and education would be attended to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

(No. 4.)

Reply from Acting Governor-General to Memorandum No. 1.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Administrative Council of Angora Province, July 23, 1879.

According to official instructions received from his Excellency the Chief of Police, these instructions being subsequent to those mentioned by you in your memorandum of the 26th June, this Government has been instructed that the convict, Nicola Mookail, referred to by you, is not to be allowed to remain in Angora, but is to be sent on to Yozgat to be placed under police surveillance there. It being accordingly irregular to place him under your care, it is suggested to you that you should, on the receipt of this, hand over the boy to the Commandant of Police here, in order that he may be sent to the place allotted for his destination.

I notify you, therefore, of this decision of the Administrative Council, and beg of you to act accordingly.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) MUSTAPHA ISSAID EMIN,
Acting Governor-General.

To Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul.

(No. 5.)

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, July 26, 1879.

Sir,

I beg to inform your Excellency that, on the 25th instant, I found it necessary to forward you the following despatch by telegraph, which I now confirm:—

"*Angora, July 25, 1879.*

"I beg to inform you that, referring to despatches of 12th and 19th current regarding case of Nicola Mookail, Roumeliote, aged 10, sentenced banishment for

life, provincial authorities decline any guarantee, alleging stringent orders from Stamboul to send child immediately to Yozgat to undergo sentence.

"Please instruct me if the child must be surrendered, or if pardon can be secured, or permission granted him to remain here."

The reason for sending this message was the curt demand for surrender in the official note sent me by the Administrative Council, of which I inclose a copy in Turkish.*

I am favoured this morning with your Excellency's replies, as follows:—

"*Therapia, July* 25, 1·35 P.M., *received July* 26, 9·10 P.M.

"Do all you can to prevent departure of boy. I am exerting myself in the matter.

"LAYARD."

"*Therapia, July* 25, 3 P.M., *received July* 26, 10·30 P.M.

"I have seen Minister for Foreign Affairs, and orders will be sent at once to Pasha about the boy. Insist upon his not being sent away, and, if Pasha resists, inform him that he will be held responsible.

"LAYARD."

I beg to tender your Excellency my best thanks for your kindly interest in and prompt exertions on behalf of this poor child. You may rest assured that your instructions will be faithfully carried out. In case of force being attempted, I have brought the boy to my own house, where I have him carefully watched night and day.

To repeated demands for a categoric answer to official letter inclosed, I merely reply, verbally, that I await final instructions from my superiors, and pending the arrival of these I am ordered not to give him up.

I have no fear of extreme measures being employed: to take the child from under the protection of the flag is more than they dare do.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

(No. 6.)

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Acting Governor-General.

(Translation.)
Excellence, *Angora, July* 29, 1879.

Referring to my conversation with you to-day and in confirmation thereof, I beg to inform you that I am unable to comply with your demand to surrender Nicola Mookail, having received instructions to that effect from Her Majesty's Ambassador.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

(No. 7.)

Sir A. H. Layard to Vice-Consul Gatheral.

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, September* 3, 1879, 3·5 P.M., *received* 8·15 P.M.

Orders, I am assured, will be sent at once for the release of the Greek boy, who is to be sent to the Greek Patriarch.

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* No. 4.

(No. 8.)

Khourshid Pasha to Vice-Consul Gatheral.

(Translation.)
Sir, *September* 5, 1879.

At your request, and confirming formally the conversation we had to-day, I notify you as under:—

1. That in conformity with instructions received from the First Minister of Police, the order instructing this Government to send the Greek boy, Nicola Mookail, to Yozgat, has been discharged.

2. That the order received by this Government from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, directing that the said youth should remain in Angora, has been supplemented by a fresh instruction that the said youth is to be handed over to your care to be sent back to Constantinople, and placed in charge of the Greek Patriarch.

3. You are accordingly requested to take the necessary measures, and on being advised of the departure of the boy this Government will have pleasure in supplying a military escort, and giving such orders to local authorities on the way as will insure comfortable quarters during the journey.

As I have been much interested in the boy during his residence here, I would add, on my own behalf, that I shall be glad to hear of his safe arrival in Constantinople.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) KHOURSHID.

(No. 9.)

Mr. Malet to Vice-Consul Gatheral.

Sir, *Therapia, September* 24, 1879.

With reference to your despatch of the 12th July to Sir Henry Layard, drawing his Excellency's attention to the case of Nicola Mookail, who had been exiled to Angora, I now inclose copy of a note received from the Sublime Porte in reply to the representation addressed to them on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. MALET.

(No. 10.)

Notice.

Le jeune Grec mentionné dans le Mémoire remis par l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique à la date du 18 Juillet, est un filou âgé de 14 à 15 ans, natif de Malgara. Il était venu à Constantinople, où il continuait ses vols, lorsque la justice le saisit sous le nouveau pont de la Corne d'Or, où il avait élu domicile. Conduit d'abord à Rodosto pour être repatrié, il avait été de nouveau renvoyé à Constantinople, son séjour dans son pays natal offrant des inconvénients pour la sécurité publique.

Ce n'est qu'alors et vu ses antécedents qu'il a été envoyé à Angora.

Pour ce qui est des autres détenus dont il est question dans le Mémoire précité, il y a, il est vrai, parmi eux, vingt-quatre gens de 15 ans et trois filles de même âge, mais aucun d'eux n'est enchaîné. Une plus longue détention sans aucune forme de jugement ne pouvant être cependant conforme à l'équité et à la justice, le Ministère de la Justice a averti la police à traduire immédiatement ces détenus par devant les Tribunaux Correctionnels de la capitale pour être jugés.

(No. 11.)

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Angora, October* 14, 1879.

I beg to inform you, with reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 24th September, the boy, Nicola Mookail, referred to therein, has to-day set out on his return to Constantinople, a trustworthy person having been found to take charge of him by the way. The Governor-General of the province, Khourshid Pasha, has furnished him with a "boorjooroultoo" and orders that will secure him comfortable quarters and kind treatment whilst travelling.

His Excellency having been interested in the child during his stay here would be gratified to hear of his safe arrival at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 152.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 120.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 14, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at Adana, Erzeroum, and Van on subjects of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 152.

Captain Cooper to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 15. Confidential.)

Sir, *Adana, March* 29, 1880.

WITH reference to paragraph 10 of my despatch No. 5 of the 9th February, I have the honour to forward some particulars about the harbour of Ayas Bay, for which I am indebted to Commander Pasey, R.N., Her Majesty's ship "Bittern," who writes from Alexandretta under date of the 25th instant.

"The reef which I told you I would have sounded round in Ayas Bay runs out from the east point of the bay south 43°, west 477 yards. There are 16 feet close to it, but half-way in soundings become irregular from the rocks which are scattered round.

"There is, I believe, only one danger in the harbour, and that is a patch of rock about 25 yards square, with a depth of 7 to 10 feet on it. From this the south-west rock of the east point bears south 66°, east 900 yards."

The reef referred to is under a small cliff 4 miles west of Ayas, close to the village of Yarmountalik, and protects a small cove known as Beef House Bay, from the contractor having established a slaughter-house there. It had been spoken of in reference to the construction of quays, should Ayas Bay ever become a railway terminus.

The advantages of this harbour have been brought prominently to notice lately, as owing to rough weather the mails could not be landed at Messina, and some lighters were lost. At Alexandretta the rough weather also caused some inconvenience.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 152.

Captain Cooper to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 16.)

Sir, *Steam-ship "Erymanthe," April* 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that I embarked at Messina for Constantinople on Saturday the 3rd instant.

Before leaving Adana I had an interview with the Vali, Zia Pacha, who begged that I would explain to your Excellency that he was a friend to the English, as he saw that it was only by English influence that his country could be regenerated, and

he swore most solemnly that though appearances were against him, we personally had not acted treacherously in the Dingwall Case.

Zia Pacha was too ill for me to prolong a painful interview, but in promising the Vali to repeat his words to your Excellency, I told him that I could not endorse them.

2. The continued illness of Zia Pasha has upset the Local Administration of the Adana Vilayet completely. The Acting Defterdar, a feeble old man, is incapable of taking the lead, and though the Vali nominally retains the Government, it is really exercised by the Metetoulji, a young official who, trying to be all things to all men, lets affairs take their own course. The Kadi, deprived of the advice of the Vali, seems at a loss how to act, and by way of mending matters, Nadji Akif Effendi, the recent arrival from Constantinople, is making mysterious inquiries which have discredited the existing authority without putting any other in its place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 152.

Captain Everett to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 13. Political.)

Sir, *Erzeroum, April* 3, 1880.

I BEG to inform you that I have received a Report from Bayazid and Alashgerd, signed by 87 Armenians and 7 Turks, inclosing a list showing that 107 people have died from starvation in 9 villages, principally in the district of Alashgerd.

Notwithstanding the apparent gravity of this appeal I do not attach great importance to it.

For some time past now an Armenian Relief Committee has been sitting at Toprak-Kaleh, in Alashgerd, and I know positively that they have received and expended in this district alone about £ T. 550 during the last six weeks. It was partially for this reason that I felt justified in spending money from our small funds in the Passin. £ T. 300 has also been sent to Bayazid.

Such sums properly expended among the Christian residents in those districts ought certainly to have staved off starvation for a time. It is also to be observed that the list now forwarded to me has not been sent through the Relief Committee, nor have the latter made any report to the chief Committee here to this effect.

I am, therefore, of opinion that though possibly some may have died from the effects of bad food, in the majority of cases death has resulted from other causes. As I informed you in my last despatch (No. 12), the Armenians of Constantinople have forwarded another instalment of £ T. 700 for these districts, and the Committee here having telegraphed to Constantinople on the receipt of a report identical with that forwarded to me, an answer has been received to spend double that amount if necessary. The difficulty is how to spend it.

The Armenian Committee at Toprak-Kaleh declare that 300 somars of wheat exist in the Alashgerd district, and they wish to buy it. I have spoken to the Vali, at their request, on this point. He declares that there cannot be this amount of wheat in the district, as long ago the order was given to sell or distribute it to the poor. He does not seem quite clear whether this has been done; but even if there should be any, it is very evident that he has no intention of selling Government wheat to be distributed only among the Armenian portion of the Sultan's subjects.

No doubt this quantity of money coming for the Christians will tend to produce bad feeling and discontent among their Mussulman brethren. The Vali is rightly nervous about the consequences, and I have reason to know that he has telegraphed to Constantinople for £ T. 1,000, in order to counterbalance the bad effect which will be produced among the Turkish portion of the population.

If a favourable answer is received, so far as a starving population is concerned, the Armenians will have done good to the country; but it is nevertheless greatly to be regretted that a more liberal spirit in Constantinople had not authorized the Committee here to spend some of the money on the suffering Mussulmans.

The too independent action of the Committee here who had not the courtesy to acquaint the Vali of its intentions, has greatly incensed both him and the Government. This will doubtless make itself shown by the increased severity on the part of officials towards Armenians. The partiality in distribution will also increase the animosity existing between the two races, and this is greatly to be deplored.

The great expense of transport has hitherto deterred me from transporting

Government wheat to the districts; but I have informed the Vali that should an unsatisfactory answer be received from Constantinople, I will at once place money at his disposal for the transport of a small quantity of wheat to Alashgerd to be given as most required to Turks and Christians, subject to the Regulations already drawn out by me.

The Committee for the relief of the refugees in this city, mentioned in my despatch No. 12, has been organized. During the past week a large number of houses have been examined, and I hope to make a first distribution of bread on Monday next. In the meantime I have given a second distribution to the poverty-stricken residents of all nationalities. I have also relieved a second time some of the villages in the Passin, and given a distribution of barley to several others.

The distress here is on the increase, and the villagers round are beginning to beg for assistance. The lateness of the season adds to the suffering. The country is still covered in snow. A shaded thermometer never rises above the freezing point, and during the night still descends below the zero of Fahrenheit.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 152.

Captain Clayton to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 9. Political.)
Van, March 2, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received information that Sheikh Obeyd Ullah is taking advantage of the distress existing in Gawar, to endeavour to convert the Christians to Islam. He has promised assistance and food to all Christians who shall change their religion, and I understand that some thirty persons have already accepted his offers.

This information was given me by the ex-Patriarch Chrimian. As far as I am able to see the only thing to be done at the present moment is to send aid as soon as possible to the people in those parts so as to relieve them from the present famine which forces them to turn renegades; but such reform as would give them security for the future against the Kurds, whose devastations have been a great cause of the present scarcity, is most earnestly to be desired. When I was lately at Bashkala, Ohannes Vartabed, the chief Armenian Ecclesiastic, informed me that the people had sent him a document angrily asking why he did not do something to save them from their oppressors, and saying that they could not bear their present condition much longer, but would be forced to turn Mussulman, or enter the Greek Church if Russia would promise them her protection.

The Reform Commissioners are, I believe, doing their best to give assistance to the districts most afflicted with famine, but they have difficulties to contend with. They informed me the other day that the Treasury agent here had complained of them to Constantinople as not properly regarding the interests of the Government, because they sold corn to the people from the Government stores at less than the market price. Now it is evident that poor people who can buy at the present price taken by the Government would be unable to do so if the price were much increased, and would, therefore, have to be fed gratuitously, and be added to the large number already existing who have to be so fed. Therefore to sell corn at a reduced price cannot be against the interests of the Government provided due precautions are taken that only those who are needy are able to purchase on these conditions.

The same official on being requested to proceed to Hakkiari to investigate cases of alleged robbery and peculation by officials there, refused to go, and tendered his resignation, for what reason I am unable to say.

With reference to my remarks in my despatch No. 6, Political, of the 10th February, regarding the complication of the new system of administering justice, and the useless multiplication of officials, I have been informed that within the last year the expenses of the Local Administration have been increased by over 200,000 piastres per month, caused by the salaries of the Reform Commissioners and their staff, of Samih Pasha and his suite, and of the increased number of judicial functionaries. And the administration of justice seems to be anything rather than quickened. A villager came to me yesterday who said he had been robbed of six oxen eight months ago, and although the robbers were perfectly well known, and he had presented several petitions with plenty of evidence, yet nothing had as yet been done to get his property back, which he wanted very much to till his fields for the next crops. I spoke about his case to

the Reform Commissioners, and perhaps he may now obtain redress, but it will be no thanks to the new judicial organization if he does.

I am informed that fresh statistics of population of this country have been ordered to be prepared. It will be necessary to receive with great caution any arguments the Turkish Government may base upon the proportion of Christians and Mussulmans given by these statistics, as no steps are as yet being taken to obtain accurate information, and I have heard that a tribe of nomad Kurds, who usually paid their taxes in Mosul, were this summer forced to pay in the Van vilayet, the Armenians believe for the purpose of making it appear that the Mussulmans bear a larger proportion to the Christians than is really the case.

I cannot vouch for the truth of these statements, but I think it desirable to mention them in order to show that caution will be necessary in accepting Turkish statistics.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 153.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 23.)

(No. 16.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, April 13, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches, one marked Secret, which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador respecting the lamentable condition of the peasantry in Anatolia and the famine prospects in certain districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 153.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 41.)
Sir,
Constantinople, April 12, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to draw your Excellency's attention to the lamentable condition of the peasantry in the districts which I have recently visited, or been in the vicinity of, during my journey from Sivas to Angora and Constantinople, and to express my belief that a serious state of affairs is likely to arise at no distant period throughout Anatolia.

I found everywhere that, during an unusually severe winter, the greatest pressure had been brought to bear upon the unfortunate peasantry, with a view of calling in arrears of taxes, that money might be sent to Constantinople. Agricultural implements and other necessaries of daily life were being seized and sold by the tax collectors, who did not even spare the widows and orphans of soldiers who had laid down their lives at Plevna, at Shipka, or upon the mountains of Armenia. Not more than one-third of the men called up during the war have returned to their homes, and in nearly every village there are widows and orphans, almost on the verge of starvation, who are supported and helped by relations and friends not much better off than themselves.

In several places the villagers complained much of the new tax collectors, who, they said, were worse than the zaptiehs, especially in the oppressive and extravagant demands which they made for the supply of food and lodging free of cost. In one instance I was able to bring the conduct of a tax collector to the notice of the Local Government, with, as I have subsequently heard, good results.

It was during this period of pressure that the Porte issued the order reducing the value of the beshlik currency by one-half. This measure, which has given rise to serious disturbances in some of the larger towns, has virtually ruined the peasantry of Anatolia, already impoverished by the depreciation, first of caimé, then of copper. In the interior of Asia Minor the beshlik was the one species of money in which the peasant had confidence; to him it was the type of all that was stable; he preferred it in many places to gold and silver, of which there was little in circulation; and all his hoardings, if he had any, were made in it. In one moment, with scarcely a note of

warning, the peasant found the value of all ready money in his possession, or in that of his wife, reduced by one-half. Every one who, with great difficulty, had scraped together a few piastres to pay his taxes had to commence again—to sell off stock or other articles to make good the loss by depreciation; whilst, at the same time, the price of all the necessaries of life rose in the bazaars. I need not here remark on the confusion and inconvenience produced in the interior by the manner in which the change in the value of the currency was effected, or upon the opportunities which it has given, and will give, to local officials to continue the system of plundering Government that was found so effective when caimé was depreciated. It is only another instance of that curious inability of Turkish officials to understand the most elementary principles of finance to which I have alluded in previous despatches.

In no place that I visited has any real attempt been made to settle the refugees from Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia. These unfortunate people are still living in the villages to which they were at first sent; no lands have been assigned to them; and even the scanty ration of corn which Government at one time issued has been stopped since the 1st March. Several of the refugees to whom I spoke wished for work, for any possible means of gaining a livelihood, and so avoiding starvation; but there was nothing for them to do, except in the rare instances in which the villagers were rich enough to employ them as labourers. The villagers in their turn complained, and very justly, of the heavy tax imposed upon their slender resources by having to provide house accommodation for, and supply food to, the refugees.

Another severe tax, which the villagers have to bear, is the support of disbanded soldiers returning to their homes. I frequently met parties of four or five men, who had been discharged in Crete, at the Dardanelles, or in European Turkey, with not more than 7 or 8 shillings to find their way to the extreme parts of the Empire. The men were not even granted passages to the nearest port; all had to march, begging their way from village to village, with nothing but the clothes on their backs, and papers which showed they were from three to five years in arrear of pay. It is greatly to the credit of men discharged under such circumstances that the percentage of crime charged against them is almost *nil*, a feature which would probably be looked for in vain, under similar conditions, in any other country.

At Adabazar, and in its vicinity, a state of affairs exists which I cannot but consider most critical and serious, and to which I would beg to draw your Excellency's attention. Of the general condition of the district, your Excellency is aware from the reports of Lieutenant Kitchener, Royal Engineers, since whose visit nothing has been done by the Turkish Government to mitigate the sufferings of the people. In a very small area Circassian refugees, estimated to number from 15,000 to 20,000, have been allowed to collect, and "squat" on lands already tilled by a mixed, Christian and Moslem, peasantry. No effort has been made to settle the Circassians, or to grant them lands for cultivation, and it is now too late to make any arrangements which would enable them to gather in a harvest this year. Many Circassians came into the country with nothing but the clothes they wore; others, who were possessed of some means, have spent nearly everything in purchasing food; the Government ration has been stopped, and nothing remains but starvation or robbery. I was informed that in places the Circassians had seized the lands of the peasantry, and sown them for their own use; it is difficult to blame them; it is not easy to characterize the action, or want of action, on the part of the Turkish Government which has been the cause of so much misery. The Circassians are, physically, greatly superior to the native peasantry, and in the struggle for existence which must ensue, the latter, Christian and Moslem, will be the sufferers. I fear your Excellency will, as spring advances, have many cases of robbery and violence brought to your notice.

In the Sandjak of Ismid the people generally are in a state bordering on starvation, and men and women are at the present moment dying of want within ten miles of the railway terminus of Ismid. One Kaimakam (Governor) told me that people were dying of starvation in his caza, and that, having exhausted all the corn in the granaries, he had applied more than once to Constantinople for assistance without obtaining an answer. The peasants have eaten their seed corn, and have no reserve of food or money to fall back upon, so that, unless the country is blessed with an exceptionally abundant harvest this year, a serious famine may be expected in the Sandjak of Ismid and in many districts of the Vilayet of Broussa. In any case the sufferings of the people during the next three months, before the harvest is gathered in, will be intense, and many will die. In some places the peasants are now living on one meal a day, consisting of a soup of bran and water; in others they are baking the vine-stems and grinding them for flour; and in others they are reduced to eating grass and herbs.

I believe that the local officials have frequently done all that they could to relieve suffering, and have sometimes given largely from their private means, but the general impoverishment is so great that little real effect can be produced without generous assistance from the Central Government and that does not seem to be forthcoming. The indifference shown to the sufferings of the people by Ministers at Constantinople seems well nigh incredible, and their neglect of the most obvious precautions is so great that a casual observer would be almost justified in supposing that a settled plan had been formed for the destruction of a peasantry in some respects the finest in the world. In the Sandjak of Ismid the distress, common to the whole of Anatolia, has been aggravated by the failure of the harvest last year owing to drought, and to the excessive non-productive Circassian population, and in the Broussa Vilayet by the destruction of the crops last year by locusts and drought, and by the length and severity of the winter, during which 150,000 cattle, sheep, and goats are said to have perished.

In the Vilayet of Angora the winter has told severely upon the goats which produce the mohair. Whilst at Angora I was informed that between thirty and forty per cent. had died, and the heavy snowstorms which I met with afterwards on my journey from Angora to Ismid must have killed many more. There are no kids this year, and the cattle and sheep have also suffered, so that altogether the prospects for the immediate future are not good.

I have nowhere seen any attempt to introduce those measures for the amelioration of the people which have so often been promised and are so eagerly looked for by Christian and Moslem alike. There are Valis, Mutessarifs, and Kaimakams who see and acknowledge the evils from which the country is suffering, and would willingly strive to remedy them if they had not good reason to believe that their efforts would be thwarted at Stamboul, where everything seems to be crushed under the dead weight of over centralization. If some steps are not taken, and that shortly, to alleviate the condition of the people, His Imperial Majesty the Sultan will find, when it is too late, that he has lost, through causes which might have been prevented, a very large portion of the peasantry which forms the true strength of the Ottoman Empire.

I may add, in support of what I have written, that I was told recently by a gentleman who has passed more than twenty years in Anatolia, and has an intimate knowledge of the peasantry, that at no period within his recollection has the lot of the peasant been harder to bear or the outlook for the future more gloomy and apparently hopeless.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 153.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 42. Secret.)
Sir, *Constantinople, April 12, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, whilst at Broussa, I had two long conversations with Ahmet Vefyk Pasha on the state of the country. His Highness seemed to take a despondent view of the case, and to look forward with apprehension to the course of the famine, which may be expected to increase during the next few months. The famine is due to the destruction of the crops last year by locusts and drought, and to other causes to which I have alluded in my despatch No. 41 of this day's date; though, however, all this has been known to the Porte for months, and Ahmet Vefyk has made repeated representations, no steps have been taken to render assistance. His Highness, thrown upon his own resources, has done all that was possible, personally, and has purchased large quantities of grain, partly out of his private means, for distribution, but the magnitude of the distress is too great to be met in this way.

The roads made by Ahmet Vefyk, since his appointment as Vali of Broussa, have been of great service in enabling food to be conveyed to the villages, but there are other places, less easy of access, where the sufferings of the people are already intense, especially near Adramiz and the southern slopes of Mount Olympus.

Ahmet Vefyk seemed much moved by the pitiable condition of the people and his inability to do more to assist them, and spoke in strong terms of the inaction of the Ottoman Government. His Highness also told me that he was surrounded by spies, and had recently been accused of infringing the Sultan's prerogative for letting some

prisoners, accused of minor offences, return to their homes on a threatened outbreak of typhus in the prison, and that an investigation was now going on.

The gloomy view which Ahmet Vefyk takes of the immediate future, and his remarks on the present Government and the Palace intrigues, correspond with what I have heard from every intelligent official I have conversed with in Anatolia.

The peasantry are generally so apathetic and so long-suffering that, as a body, they may be expected to remain quiet, but in many districts there are all the elements of disturbance; Circassians, Kurds, Zeibeks, and other people who will not die without a struggle for existence; and I greatly fear that the Christians, who, having been saved the war tax of blood, are in a better condition than the Moslems, will be the first and chief sufferers.

Ahmet Vefyk remarked on the danger to which portions of the Vilayet of Broussa were exposed by the presence of 15,000 or 20,000 Circassians near Adabazar, and said, very pertinently, "If they chose to come here, what could I do with the few zaptiehs at my disposal? I could not prevent them, and they would eat me up." Your Excellency is well aware of the influence which these Circassians possess in the Palace, and of the protection that is given them in the highest quarters; without such protection the Circassians would never have been allowed to assemble as they have done and appropriate the fields and property of the peasants, when there was abundance of waste land upon which they could have been settled in other parts of the country.

I must add, in conclusion, that I was much struck by the improvements made in and near the town of Broussa since my visit last year, and by what I heard of the administration of Ahmet Vefyk, and his efforts to improve the condition of the people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. W. WILSON.

No. 154.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 29.*)

(No. 8. Political.) *Diarbekir, March 17*, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of my despatch of the 17th March to Her Majesty's Ambassador on the subject of the robbery of Dr. Sachaü, a distinguished German savant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 1 in No. 154.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 17.) *Diarbekir, March 17*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to state that Dr. Sachaü, a German savant, commissioned by the German Government to travel in those regions, was robbed, on the 8th instant, of property worth over £ T. 80 while on his journey here from Mardin.

Dr. Sachaü was travelling a mile or so ahead of his caravan, when the latter was attacked by a band of about twenty-five armed robbers. One of his muleteers was severely wounded while endeavouring to save his own and his master's property. During the struggle the mules carrying the doctor's books, notes, and papers got separated from the others, and were fortunately recovered later on.

On Dr. Sachaü's arrival here I at once reported the matter to the local authorities, and shortly afterwards, at the request of Dr. Sachaü, I sent in to the Governor-General of Diarbekir a claim for compensation based on the grounds that Dr. Sachaü was travelling with an Imperial Firman, and consequently under the special protection of the Sultan—and that the Mutessarif of Mardin had not taken sufficient precautions for his safety, in that he had assured the doctor that the road was perfectly safe, and had only sent one zaptieh for his protection. His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Germany has no official Representative here, but as Dr. Sachaü, in addition to being the subject of a friendly Power, was provided with a letter of introduction from your Excellency to myself, in which he was strongly recommended to

my good offices, I felt justified in taking up his case officially, and doing what lay in my power to endeavour to obtain restitution of his property or compensation in lieu thereof.

Dr. Sachaü informed me that had the articles lost been solely his own property he would not have troubled me about the matter, but the greater part of the cash lost formed the whole of the eight months' savings of the Beyrouth muleteers, who had accompanied him throughout his travels.

I inclose a copy of the letter I have addressed to the Vali asking for compensation.

As, however, the Turkish Government is not by law responsible for the value of the articles plundered, it is extremely improbable that the local Government will grant compensation unless pressure be applied at Constantinople. I would therefore beg respectfully to suggest that should the German Ambassador approve of the demand for compensation, it will probably be necessary that the claim should be backed up by his Excellency's influence at Constantinople.

I have not yet received any reply to my official communication to the Vali, but his Excellency assured me personally that every endeavour would be made to arrest and punish the robbers and to restore the plundered property, but as the authority of the Turkish Government in Mardin and its vicinity is just now extremely feeble, it is very improbable that the Vali will be able to succeed in doing what he proposes.

As, moreover, Dr. Sachaü only remained here two nights and then continued his journey on towards Buyrouth, taking with him his muleteers, the only possible witnesses in the improbable event of the arrest and trial of the robbers, it is not likely that even if the goods be recovered the robbers will be brought to justice.

I will, if necessary, on receipt of a reply from the Vali to my demand for compensation, telegraph its purport to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 154.

Major Trotter to Izzet Pasha.

Excellency, *Diarbekir, March 14*, 1880.

DR. SACHAÜ, sent to this country on a special mission by the German Government, holding a Firman from His Majesty the Sultan, and bearing a strong letter of recommendation from Her Majesty's Ambassador, while travelling from Mardin to Diarbekir was plundered, at a place three hours distant from Mardin, of a quantity of goods and cash—a list of which (with value of the same) I append; at the same time one of the muleteers was severely wounded by the brigands.

Dr. Sachaü has made this complaint formally to me in writing. Up to his arrival at Mardin he had been protected by a strong escort, but the Mardin Mutessarif informed him that the road was perfectly safe, and only sent one zaptieh for his protection.

Dr. Sachaü represents that he is travelling under the special protection of His Majesty the Sultan, and as the Mutessarif of Mardin failed to take the necessary steps to ensure his safety, he considers that in the event of the non-recovery of his property he will be entitled to receive from the Turkish Government full compensation for the value of the articles plundered, and also that the muleteer, who was travelling under his protection, should receive some compensation for the injuries he has received.

As Dr. Sachaü's demands appear to be just, and as it is desirable that the affair should be settled here without having to be discussed at Constantinople between the Ambassadors and the Sublime Porte, I express a hope that your Excellency will be able to comply with Dr. Sachaü's reasonable demands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 155.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 9. Political.)

Diarbekir, March 17, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 7, Political, of the 3rd March, on the subject of the famine in my Consular districts, I have the honour to furnish additional and later information on the same subject.

The measures taken by the Diarbekir Government for the protection of the river traffic appear to have been in a great measure successful, and nearly all the rafts *en route* to Djezireh and Mosul, about which much anxiety was felt, are reported to have arrived safely at their destination. A considerable amount of the plundered grain has been recovered.

Telegraphic communication with Van has been interrupted for several days, so I have no news from that quarter.

Captain Everett has telegraphed from Erzeroum that he had returned to that place on the 8th instant from Alishgerd, after having relieved many distressed villages.

From the Diarbekir districts most unfavourable reports continue to pour in, and the weather has been and continues most unseasonable. In the last ten days we have had no sunshine, but have had daily heavy falls of rain or snow, and very sharp and severe frosts at night.

It is snowing steadily as I write, and the harvest which at one time promised to be early and good will now be greatly retarded, and possibly very poor in quality. A large portion of the few sheep in the desert that survived the winter will, I fear, now perish from cold and hunger. The price of grain in Diarbekir is at 6 Turkish liras the quarter.

Dr. Sachau, a German traveller, who recently passed through here, and who has lately travelled from Mosul to Djezireh, Midyad, and Mardin, informs me that distress was very general all along his route, although there are certain well-favoured spots, such as the Saur Valley west of Midyad, where the harvest had been good and the people were well off.

Dr. Sachau states that on leaving Djezireh the horses of two out of the four zaptiehs that accompanied him as escort died of starvation on the road on the first day's journey; the last post from Bagdad to Diarbekir was ten days longer than usual on the road, and the incoming post is more than a fortnight overdue.

Dr. Thom, an American missionary, who has just returned to Mardin from a visit to the Midyad district, writes to me on the 10th March on the subject of his tour. He states that in the village of Midyad itself there are about fifty families that are, or will be, in real need before the harvest. At Bati village out of sixty-three Protestants thirteen had already emigrated through want, twenty-four families were preparing to follow, and thirteen only hope, by pinching in every way, to be able to support themselves until the harvest.

The Protestants are said to be better off than the other villagers. At another village of thirty-five houses five families had left, nine were preparing to go, nine were living on cotton-seed, wheat, bran, and skin of grapes. The Mussulmans of this village were even worse off than the Christians. These villages may be taken as average specimens of most of the others in the Midyad district. What becomes of those who emigrate it is difficult to say; many have gone to Mardin, some are here, but I fear that but a small portion of those who leave will ever return to their homes.

Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., writes to me from Djezireh on the 27th February:—

"About Redwan, and as far as Sert, there is scarcity but not famine, the villagers having a small provision of grain. Wheat at Sert is dear, 750 piastres the kila (quarter); flour 4½ piastres the oke. In the Midyad country the scarcity is very great. From Sert to Djezireh the scarcity is terrible; in fact there is no grain. Wheat is over 1,000 piastres the kila; flour 7½ piastres; and rice 10 piastres the oke. The villagers *en route* are eating bread made of acorns and cotton-seed; the flour of acorns is selling at 3½ piastres the oke."

Since this was written affairs have improved at Djezireh owing to the arrival of grain from Diarbekir, but at Redwan there is very great scarcity, and the inhabitants of several villages are fleeing to avoid the certainty of death by starvation at home.

March 20.—Said Pasha, Baker Pasha's colleague, passed near this yesterday *en route* for Sivas. I went out to see him. He came from Djezireh by Nisibin and Midyad. He informed me that the famine was most threatening in the Schernach and Bohtan districts; after them in order of suffering came Djezireh, Midyad, and Nisibin. He did not think there was much fear for Redwan, but it is more than a month since he was in that district, and I know that great suffering exists there.

While writing this I have received information that several deaths have occurred from starvation in the Redwan district. Wheat is selling at 900 piastres the kila, gold currency, and is almost unobtainable even at that price. I have contributed 10*l.* to help the Redwanlis to get some grain from here.

At Diarbekir itself grain is scarce and dear; the numbers of destitute people in the city is now about 4,000, of whom at least half are fugitives from the eastern districts of the vilayet. Many daily part for the west and north, but the constant fresh arrivals keep up, and even increase the numbers. If funds be not provided to keep this number of people alive until the harvest-time, *i.e.*, for another three months, I fear many will die of starvation. As a rule the different communities look, to a certain extent, after their own poor.

The Mahommedan residents of Diarbekir amount to about 14,000; of their poor it is impossible to form an accurate estimate, but in one khan alone there are 1,200 outsiders, mostly Kurds and Arabs, in a state of absolute destitution. They have hitherto been supplied with a daily dole of biscuits bought with funds collected by the Mussulmans, and I give soup twice a-week from Lady Strangford's money, but the biscuit is now running short, and unless I am provided with more funds, I believe many of them will die gradually from want of sufficient nourishment. Many of them complained at yesterday's soup distribution that they had had no biscuits given them for two days.

Smallpox has broken out amongst them, which, with insufficient food, will probably rapidly reduce their numbers.

The Armenians here, who number about 8,000, are many of them fairly well off; they have 800 poor on their lists, but nearly all of them townspeople—very few outsiders.

The Jacobites (ancient Syrians), who only number 1,500 souls, have 120 townspeople and nearly 300 outsiders to provide for, mostly from Midyad, Djezireh, &c. The Chaldeans, who number 1,250, have 150 of their own poor and about 180 outsiders. I am now giving soup twice a-week to both Jacobites and Chaldeans.

The Armenian Catholics here (1,250 souls) have several wealthy persons amongst them, and have not yet been to me for assistance.

The Protestants (900) look well after their own poor, and I have given them slight pecuniary assistance. I learn from the American missionaries at Kharput that the boys of the Protestant college there have voluntarily offered for the whole term to take two meals a-day instead of three, and the money saved by this self-denial has been sent to contribute to the aid of all classes of poor in Redwan.

There are about ten families of Greek Catholics; to a few of the most necessitous I am giving soup.

The Jews here are about 350 in number, all very poor and neglected. They came to me for help about a fortnight ago, and as they could not even raise funds to send a telegram asking for help, I sent a special telegram to the "Alliance Israelite Universelle" of Paris asking for pecuniary assistance.

I have as yet received no reply to the telegram. I hope to give them also some pecuniary help, but it will be evident to your Lordship that unless I can get something more than the 150*l.* alluded to in my last despatch I shall soon be high and dry for want of funds.

The Syriac Catholics (200) came to me for assistance, but as I understood they were a generally prosperous community, and were not contributing for their poor according to their means, I summoned a meeting of their principal men, and succeeded in inducing them to subscribe to the extent of 30*l.* for a relief fund. I undertook to give 1*l.* for each 10*l.* subscribed.

I have this day (20th March) telegraphed to your Lordship as follows:—

"Distress increasing. 4,000 destitute poor in Diarbekir. Several deaths from starvation Redwan. Money urgently wanted."

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 156.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 29.*)

(No. 10. Political.)

Diarbekir, March 22, 1880.

My Lord,

I REGRET to have to report that the condition of this vilayet is most unsatisfactory.

In addition to the misery caused by famine which I have reported in a separate despatch, a great number of isolated outrages have occurred within the last few weeks in various parts of the province.

In Sileivan an Armenian boy about twelve years of age, while going from his school to a neighbouring village, was murdered, after having, it is believed, been violated by three soldiers of the regular army who were employed in collecting taxes in the district. The soldiers were arrested by the villagers, and will, I trust, meet with their deserts.

A caravan coming from Deyrik (45 miles south of Diarbekir) was attacked by robbers at a short distance from Diarbekir, plundered, and one of the escort (a Kurd) was killed.

Dr. Sachaü's caravan, coming from Mardin, was attacked by robbers; much booty was taken, and one of the muleteers was severely wounded.

In the same week two Kurds bearing letters for me from Mardin were robbed on the road of what trifles they possessed. The road from Mardin to Djezireh is also reported to be infested by robbers.

In Midyad the famous robber Hadju attacked and plundered the village of Badip, killing at least one man and wounding others.

Of the exploits of the Kurds on the banks of the Tigris I have already reported. Two men have been killed and more than thirty rafts plundered. I am told that as many as 3,000 Kurds were in arms from various villages of the Bisheri (north of the Tigris) and Midyad districts.

A Special Commissioner, Khodja Giahour, a merchant of great influence in this country, was sent down the river to endeavour to induce the Kurds to return to their homes. He was backed up by a strong force of soldiery under a good officer, and returned here yesterday after a very successful mission. A great many of the ring-leaders have been arrested and brought to Diarbekir for trial. The less influential rebels have returned to their homes, and a great part of the plunder has been recovered.

But the most serious affair perhaps of any was a night attack made in the city of Mardin by a party of from forty to fifty armed men on the house of one of the most wealthy Christian merchants. This band broke open the house and killed two young men, the sons of the aged proprietor, who was himself severely wounded; they also wounded two women and a child in a cradle, who died shortly afterwards. The robbers occupied the roofs of the neighbouring houses and the streets leading to the house attacked, firing upon any one who approached. They maintained their position for no less than two and a-half hours, during which others of their party leisurely loaded the booty on men and donkeys, and carried safely off to their homes in the city a large quantity of valuable plunder, both money (to the value of 1,500*l.*) and grain. The Mutessarif of Mardin was absent with the military at Midyad, and in his absence the Acting Governor and the zaptiehs and police did absolutely nothing to stop the disorder, so that the robbers were left entirely masters of the situation. The Governor-General sent from here the Chief of Police and a few zaptiehs to inquire into the matter, and a troop of cavalry was sent to Mardin from a neighbouring village; but although twelve days have elapsed since the event up to the present time, I believe only two or three arrests have been made.

The Governor has appeared so apathetic about this and other matters that, at my request, my Consular colleagues (Mr. Yakimanski, Consul of Russia, and Mr. Pons, Consular Agent of France) accompanied me to the Vali to discuss with him the state of the country, and urge upon him the very great importance of prompt and energetic action in the Mardin and other affairs, and, if necessary, to apply to the Turkish Government for more troops. The Vali appeared utterly unable to appreciate the gravity of the crisis, and the only promise we could prevail upon him to make was that if he were informed that reinforcements were necessary by the Vekil Mutessarif, whose incompetence has already been proved, or by the Chief of the Police, he would then telegraph to Seri and order the battalion there stationed to be sent to Mardin. The Vali, in the course of our interview, stated that, in his opinion, the state of the vilayet was not such as to justify his demanding more troops. Before the interview

was over, however, I elicited from his Excellency the statement that the Mutessarif of Malatia (also in this vilayet) had sent a demand for two battalions to be dispatched to him to enable him to suppress disturbances amongst the Kurds in that province (alluded to in my despatch No. 3, Political, of the 13th February). The Vali said that he would apply to Erzingian for two battalions, and, if they were granted, he would send one to Malatia and have the other, if necessary, brought here. He ignored entirely the fact that if the Governor of Malatia asked for two battalions he would probably not be satisfied with receiving only one.

The city of Diarbekir itself has been remarkably quiet during the past few months, but since this affair at Mardin there have been very ominous reports flying about that there is a conspiracy afoot to slay and plunder, after the fashion of Mardin, many of the principal families in this city.

The families selected have been named to me from two independent sources. There is an organization in the city quite capable of forming such a project, viz., the remains of the famous company of housebreakers, to ferret out and suppress which a special Commission was formed last year. The gang was partially broken up while Abedin Pasha was here, and many of its members were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment. It is believed, however, that the principal members of this organisation were too powerful to be brought to justice, and there thus remains of this once excellent organization ample material for the execution of new and bolder deeds, and as there are many hundreds of destitute able-bodied strangers in the town, it would probably be easy to obtain recruits for pillage and violence.

To my surprise, the Vali has on this occasion listened to reason. Two hundred soldiers from the barracks outside the city have been moved to khans inside it, and orders have been given to patrol the streets at night. An active member of the Medjliss has been appointed Special Police Commissioner, and other measures have been taken to prevent the threatened disorders.

The Sublime Porte, with criminal folly, has selected this period, when famine and anarchy reign in the country, to promulgate another of those iniquitous financial measures which make its own would-be loyal subjects curse the Government under which they live. Not content with repudiating successively the paper currency, the large copper currency, and the small copper currency (the loss of which latter fell principally on beggars), they have now by a stroke of the pen suddenly reduced to one-half the capital in cash of the great majority of the inhabitants of this province. The result of the measure for withdrawing the beshlik currency will cause far more distress and ruin here than any of the former measures. It is well known that caimé never found favour here. The Arabs and Kurds always refused to accept it; it was not current in the Diarbekir bazaars or at Mosul, Bagdad, and, I believe, Van, and was, in fact, only used in payment of taxes to the Government. On the other hand, the Arabs and Kurds have always preferred the debased beshlik money, and are known generally to refuse to take gold or medjidieh currency, having greater faith in beshliks. The consequence is, that now nearly the whole of their ready money consists of the debased currency, and where it is in the form of beshliks they lose straight off more than half their property, for such is the distrust of the Government now engendered that merchants in many cases refuse to accept beshliks even at the reduced value of 100 paras.

To prevent riots on the promulgation of the order the bakers were, for the first two or three days, ordered to sell bread at old rates, with the beshlik at 5 piastres. The excitement in the city consequent upon the order has now quieted down, but universal discontent and distrust prevail. I know one individual who has lost 2,000*l.* by the measure.

Discontent is so general and the Government so helpless and unpopular that, were able men to arise as leaders, and were the subject races to forget for awhile their own internecine disputes and jealousies, there could be no doubt the Ottoman rule in these provinces would cease to exist. Fortunately for the Government, all the leading spirits amongst the Kurds and neighbouring Arabs are now in durance at Aleppo. Moreover, the antagonism which exists, not only between different races and religions, but between different bodies of the same race, will probably for years to come prevent a universal rising of all classes and creeds against the rulers who so misgovern them.

The prospects of the country are most dismal, and I see no signs of amendment or hopes of amelioration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

P.S.—*23rd March.*—Since the above was written I have been informed that in the Tchenkush district of the Palu Kaimakamlik[a] the most complete anarchy prevails.

I am also informed that the Arabs are now coming up from the southern portions of the desert in great numbers and in great destitution, having lost during the winter the greater part of their sheep and camels. There will probably be great suffering and mortality amongst them for another month until the spring crop of truffles (which grow wild in the desert in great quantities) and other roots bring help. It is also very probable that, if the Arabs be sufficiently well armed, they may, in order to procure food, attack and plunder some of the Christian and Kurdish villages on and near the northern edge of the desert.

No. 157.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 424. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 16, 1880.

COLONEL WILSON, in his despatch to me No. 41 of the 12th instant, copy of which has been transmitted to your Lordship, has given so lamentable an account of the state of the country that he visited during his journey from Siwas to Constantinople, pointing out how much reason there is to fear that grave consequences may arise from it, that I have thought it desirable to communicate his Report to the Sultan. I am therefore having a translation made of his despatch into Turkish, which I shall take an opportunity of placing in His Majesty's hands. His Majesty is kept in ignorance of the real condition of his Empire. His Ministers, from interested motives or from the traditional fear of telling the Sultan disagreeable things, conceal the truth from him. As your Lordship is aware, I have done my best to open his eyes to it, and have warned him of the extreme danger which he is running on account of the misgovernment that unhappily prevails throughout Turkey, and the discontent and disaffection which exist among all classes of his subjects, Mussulmans as well as Christians.

I have incessantly made, as Her Majesty's Government is also aware, similar representations to his Ministers. It is not for want of such representations, urged in the strongest terms that diplomacy will permit, or that I considered myself justified in using, on my own responsibility, that a policy, which can only lead to the ruin of his Empire, has been persevered in by the infatuated men who have the direction of its affairs. I fear that more than words are required to bring them to their senses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 158.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 434.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 18, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a petition which I have received from the Armenian inhabitants of Bayazid, Pakrevent, and Alashgerd, giving an account of their sufferings and imploring the assistance of Her Majesty's Government.

I have sent this petition to Mr. Vice-Consul Everett, and have requested him to communicate with the petitioners, and tell them that their unfortunate condition has been made known to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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[a] East of Kharput.

Inclosure in No. 158.

Petition from Armenians of Bayazid, Pakrevent, and Alashgerd.

A Son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de la Grande Bretagne.

Excellence,

CE n'est pas d'aujourd'hui, mais bien depuis quelques centaines d'années, que des images obscurs enveloppent notre atmosphère; en effet, que de secousses a reçues notre nationalité Arménienne, abaissée jusqu'au niveau de la terre! Ces nuages n'ont jamais disparu de l'horizon de notre pays. Les invasions des Persans, les excursions Russes répétées, à plusieurs reprises, ont toujours enveloppé notre patrie d'un voile noir. Plus tard les cruautés, atrocités, et ravages commis par les Chefs de tribus de Marasque nous ont portés au bord de l'abîme et d'une ruine complète.

Mais les déprédations commises cette fois-ci en 1877 par les armées de la Turquie, Russie, et les invasions des tribus Kurdes, ont fini par réduire l'élément Arménien en poussière dans notre pays. Notre existence a été étouffée; l'implacable épée a tranché le fil des jours de nos chers frères et enfants; le poignard inexorable leur a percé le cœur, et les têtes d'enfants en bas-âge piquées devant leurs parents à la pointe des lances laissaient osciller leurs chevelures. Les gémissements de nos enfants suspendus aux seins de leurs mères s'unissaient aux lamentations des pères pour résonner dans l'écho qu'ils prolongeaient dans les montagnes et les vallées empreintes de notre sang. Nos habitations et nos saints temples ont été peintes du sang de nos enfants. Le sang qui jaillissait des profondes plaies ouvertes sur leurs tendres corps réfléchant de sa rougeur dans nos yeux et sur nos figures, nous faisait évanouir. Ils criaient au secours d'une voix sourde et éteinte, et touchaient même les ennemis jusque dans leur fureur. De nombreux villageois menés à l'esclavage nous demandaient secours des pays lointains. Notre pays a ainsi été le théâtre d'un massacre général, et nous n'avons pas moins que le Bulgare, bu le calice de l'amertume avec des dommages de plus de 8,000,000, et la perte de plusieurs milliers d'hommes.

Cette situation terrible nous a fait émigrer en Russie; ce qui est resté de notre population a tout perdu, sans qu'il possède même de quoi se couvrir. Nous avons tout vendu sans parvenir à sauver notre existence; en rentrant nu-pieds dans notre pays, nous avons trouvé nos terres incultes, nos demeures en ruine, et nous avons dû égorger des bêtes mortes pour en faire notre nourriture. Dès lors, n'ayant pas la force de cultiver nos terres, la terrible famine nous a surpris, et menace de nous anéantir. Chaque toit couvre des malades souffrant d'inanition, et nous voilà agonisants sans secours. Nos bras brisés et nos corps épuisés nous ont fait oublier nos douleurs et le massacre de nos bien-aimés.

Nous espérons que votre Excellence daignera diriger ses regards vers nous, notre seul refuge; c'est la protection du Gouvernement de la Grande Bretagne, et la grâce et assistance de la nation Anglaise. Cette famine a été si terrible que nous faisons notre pain de roseaux secs, et nous mangeons des racines de cannes. Il n'y a plus de salut pour nous. Les montagnes sont couvertes de neige, l'hiver est rigoureux, impossible de fuir, impossible de rester, impossible de vivre, impossible de résister aux exigences des percepteurs de taxes, et à toutes sortes de tyrannies exercées par le Gouvernement.

Nous supplions donc votre Excellence, les larmes aux yeux, de nous délivrer d'une peste certaine, et de sauver nos jeunes enfants; nous vous prions d'attirer l'attention du Gouvernement de la Grande Bretagne, et de la nation Anglaise, sur notre état pitoyable; afin qu'ils puissent se hâter de nous venir en aide. Si ailleurs il y a famine, c'est seulement la disette de pain qui a commencé à une époque où le pain est cher. Mais, dans notre pays, il y disette de pain, disette d'habitation, disette de vivres, en un mot, tous les malheurs et toutes les calamités se sont réunies sur nous, et dans peu de temps notre pays deviendra un champs de pleurs et de gémissements. Il ne nous reste donc que le secours immédiat que votre Excellence voudra nous procurer, espérant toujours que de même que toutes les nations ont joui des bienfaits du Gouvernement et de la nation Anglaise, notre pauvre pays sera aussi considéré digne de la même sollicitude, grâce à votre Excellence.

Nous nous réfugions dans les sentiments de pitié de votre Excellence, et sommes, &c.

(Suivent 127 signatures des populations de Bayazid, Pakrevent, Alashgerd.)

Fait, dans la Province de Bayazid, le 10 *Mars*, 1880.

No. 159.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 439.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 21, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation by Mr. Student-Interpreter Willmore, of an article upon the Armenian question, published in the "Terdjimani Hakikat," which deserves some attention, as that journal is known to be inspired by the Palace, and is generally believed to represent the views of the Sultan himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

Inclosure in No. 159.

Extract from the "Terdjimani Hakikat" of April 16.

ARMENIAN CLAIMS.—We learn that the Armenian question, as it is called, for the revival of which great efforts are now being made, continued to occupy the attention of the European press, and only a few days ago a long article upon this subject appeared in the "Levant Herald."

The source from which are derived the arguments of the "Levant Herald," is a long article in the "Contemporary Review," signed by "an Eastern Statesman."

This "Eastern Statesman," after speaking at length upon the virtues of the Armenian nation, proceeds to the discussion of reforms which should be introduced in their favour, controverting the arguments which have been alleged against the introduction of such reforms, and pointing out that the advantages to be derived from them would be universal.

In the belief that we have never slackened in our zeal for the carrying out of reforms in favour of every nation in the Empire, we consider that we also may venture to make a few remarks upon the subject.

But while, on the one hand, the "Eastern Statesman" regards the matter from an Armenian point of view, we, on the other, shall regard it from an essentially Turkish point of view, and this difference will probably create a similar difference between our conclusions.

It is stated by the "Eastern Statesman," or by the "Levant Herald," in the version which this paper gives of his lucubrations, that the Armenian nation is justly entitled to the protection of England. This nation has reason to hope that it will obtain assistance from England, whose influence will be extended more and more in Asia Minor, whilst it has but little to expect from Russia.

It is not astonishing, in the eyes of all civilized people that, as an encouragement to the Liberal party in England, Mr. Gladstone should receive the title of "Advocate of the Christians," and that a treatise upon Christianity should be written in order to obtain for the Armenians the favour of the new Government, and that an effort should be made to introduce reforms for the purpose of saving a Christian nation.

Mussulmans have regarded with stupefaction the silence which Europe has maintained with regard to the cruelties committed in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, cruelties of which a hero or a Tropman would be ashamed. Even in Europe many persons of high standing have been astonished at this silence, which is all the more strange in these days, as the complaints of the Armenians are based upon the fact that they are a Christian nation. Does there exist in the civilized world a principle which deprives of protection all races which are not Christian, especially Mahommedans?

If it is the object of the "Eastern Statesman" to represent Christianity as the only true religion, he should stop to consider the disadvantages which would arrive from such a view.

But we do not imagine that the title of "Defenders of Christianity" would be accepted by true Liberals, seeing that the proportion of Christians to non-Christians within the British dominions is only one to six.

In favour of the Armenians it is stated that they have ever shown great attachment to the Ottoman Government, and have never displayed any desire to rob or maltreat their Turkish fellow-citizens. It is true that the Armenians have given us

sincere proofs of their obedience and good conduct, and in this matter we have no reason to complain of them.

But what is the object of this argument in their favour. It is evident that the Armenians consider themselves superior to the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia, but they must give Europeans clearly to understand that they will not repent of having asked for reforms as the Bulgarians have done.

The Bulgarians themselves for centuries were loyal to the Government of the Sultans, and have stood up against their enemies even when Ottoman soldiers have been forced to retreat. On the contrary, no such acts of courage can be cited in favour of the Armenians. Until the late sad events Bulgarians have never robbed or maltreated their Mussulman fellow-citizens.

The Armenians tell stories about the cruelty of the Kurds; they speak of the rape of 150 Armenian girls; they complain of the bad conduct of the Government. We do not consider it necessary to examine the truth of these statements, but we would remark that the "Eastern Statesman" writes in a rancorous spirit, which indeed we perceive in all publications concerning the Armenian nation.

The Armenians, although they live in the centre of the Empire, wish to have an army like that of Eastern Roumelia. Now, if the carrying of arms becomes general, if the authority descends so low as this, what guarantee will the "Eastern Statesman" propose against the occurrence of massacres, which he wrongly supposes could not possibly take place in Asia?

We are by no means opposed to the introduction of reforms in favour of the Armenians, but we cannot shut our eyes to the danger which exists of their wishes being carried out to too full an extent. If they complain of the bad treatment to which they are subjected by the Kurds, it is our earnest desire that our Government will do its best to restore order in the provinces. If they complain of the dishonesty of the tax-gatherers, we trust that these men will be dismissed, and replaced by a well-organized body.

No. 160.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received April 29.)

(No. 445.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 21, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Chermside.

I have reason to believe that the true reason for the recall of Baker Pasha from Mosul was that the Sultan and the Porte feared, that in the present state of feeling among the Arabs, his presence in the provinces of Mosul and Bagdad might lead to disturbances. There is no doubt that his proceedings have been watched with extreme jealousy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 160.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 3.)
Sir, *Mosul, March* 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Baker Pasha left Diarbekir on the 16th February, *en route* for Mosul and Bagdad. While in the neighbourhood of Djezireh he received a telegram ordering him to proceed to Erzeroum and Sivas. He replied that the routes in that part of the country were still blocked with snow, and that it was not a favourable season for examining or travelling in that country. He received in answer to this a second telegram, directing him to proceed to Sivas, and thence to Erzeroum, giving as a reason that public security was of primary importance. While the above reason is plausible enough, I would point out to your Excellency that no reply was received by Baker Pasha to his telegrams from Aleppo and Diarbekir, inquiring if the gendarmerie scheme had been adopted, and whether it could not be at once introduced, and that opportunities were thus lost of enabling a competent and experienced functionary to initiate it in two of the vilayets he has visited during his mission.

It is a matter of regret, as regards the scheme for development of communications, and for numerous other reasons, foremost among which is the question of establishing posts to watch over the nomads, and supervise their annual periods of migration, to define more clearly, and arrange on a different basis, their present unsatisfactory relations with the Government, which, at any rate, with the Kochers, or nomad Kurds, and Kurdo-Arabs, and also in part with the nomad Arabs, might be done, that Baker Pasha's mission should have been prevented from visiting the Mosul and Bagdad Vilayets, as the season, while favourable for travel in those regions, is not yet sufficiently advanced for travelling, except on the main routes in those to the north.

Baker Pasha has not yet forwarded his Report on the Diarbekir Vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 161.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April 29.*)

(No. 447.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 21, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the accompanying copies of despatches on subjects of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Bourgas, Adana, Van, and Sivas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 161.

Captain Cooper to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Constantinople, April 14, 1880.*

IT is now nearly a year since I entered Anatolia, and during that time the only attempts at reform have been alterations in the currency, and the introduction of a new legal procedure and law. It is true that a third change was made a few months since, in the transfer of the zaptiehs from the Ministry of Police to that of War; but this can scarcely be called a reform, as no alteration has been made in either command, discipline, or pay.

2. The first reform—the changes in the currency—have been most disastrous. A year ago came the withdrawal of the caimé (paper money), followed soon after by the utter depreciation of copper, and now, six months later, by the depreciation of "métallique" and silver coinage. The loss to the country on each change has been great, but the last has been the heaviest. The "métallique" was the only current means of exchange in many parts, and amongst the poorer classes almost their only money; and the silver medjidieh, in which all Custom-house dues were settled, by being arbitrarily changed, has effected foreign trade. The loss is not only actually great, but the feeling of insecurity paralyzes commerce, and credit—always doubtful in the East—is still further shaken.

3. The alterations in the law and legal procedure have completely upset society. The old laws are admitted to have been corruptly administered, but there is nothing in the new which gives promise of a better state of affairs. At the present moment it is scarcely writing too forcibly to state that no one knows how, when, or where to obtain even a hearing. The Judges are ignorant of the new law, and the host of recently-appointed functionaries are, according to the statement of one of their number, utterly in the dark as to the rudiments even of their ill-defined duties.

4. Changes were to have been introduced in the collection of the tithes. None of any real value have been yet brought forward. Last year, in many vilayets, the tithes were farmed; this year Government is going to do collection itself. To the public purse and the people it makes but little difference whether the tax-collector be a private individual or a Government employé. In either case he lives at free quarters, under Government protection. When the tithe is sold the profits go the farmers; when the Government collects, the profits stick to the hands of the tax-gatherer.

Zia Pacha, the Vali of Adana, proposed this year that the tithes of grain and cotton should be sold, the farmer only taking a tenth of that brought to the mills or exported. By this means all seed or produce consumed at home would have been exempt from the tax, and all the ills of examination on the ground, &c., would have been avoided. The only valid objection, viz., that the Government would be losers, was proved to be imaginary, as offers were made to Zia Pacha to buy the tithes for the Adana Vilayet on his conditions, at the same price as was realized last year, when they sold high. The large contractors immediately saw that the expense of collection would be infinitesimal under the new, compared with the old, system; and if the proposal had been allowed a trial it is probable that at auction the tithes would have realized a considerably higher sum. But the Porte put a stop to the idea by declining to adopt it, on the score that foreigners would escape paying export duty. How or why was not explained, but an official arrived, by the next steamer from Constantinople, charged with the collection of this year's tithes, and now every soul in Adana is trying to get a place under him, as the harvest in that vilayet promises well, and the pickings will be great.

5. The tithe itself seems the tax best suited to the country if the difficulties of collection could be obviated. A fixed money payment in lieu would press heavily on many districts even in good years, and in bad could not be made; besides there is neither survey nor reliable data on which to make the assessment. Zia Pasha's proposal taken all round is the fairest solution yet offered, and it meets with universal approval from the owners of land. It is, however, opposed by the large class, whose livelihood has been earned in the collection of tithes under the old system, when by three or four months' residence in the villages the collectors have realized sufficient to live in idleness the remainder of the year.

6. It must not be forgotten that with the tithes which, though chiefly of grain, are also the tenths of the products of vineyards, orchards, and gardens. And on these there is even greater robbery than on the grain crops. The proprietors generally compound with the collectors, and as the valuation is entirely in the latter's hands, the sums taken are often extortionate. One case may serve as an example. A Moslem in the Angora Vilayet owned a young vineyard when the tithe on the produce of grapes would not have been worth taking, so the collector claimed and received 15 piastres on the vine-leaves. In Zia Pasha's proposal it was suggested to value the vineyards, gardens, &c., on an average of the last five years, and then take a money payment in lieu of the tithes. With fruit and vegetables this could generally be done, as garden produce sells in the market for ready money, and the crops are not often pledged to the money-lenders.

7. The extent to which usury cripples the country is scarcely realized out of Anatolia. In the Adana Vilayet it is particularly bad. By law 12 per cent. is the highest rate recoverable, but all kinds of expedients are resorted to in order to increase that sum, and the usurers, being usually well-to-do men, the law Courts are generally on their side. 30 per cent. is no out of the way sum to give, but a common mode of borrowing is on the promise that the crops are to be sold to the lender at a certain rate; this, in a favourable season, is a most paying business for the usurer, who frequently realized between 30 and 40 per cent. on his outlay. In very few cases does the money-lender lose, as he takes securities on land, buildings, crops, implements, and cattle. The Adana soil is so fertile that the peasant and farmer can usually pay, but the payment carries off all profit, and prevents any attempt on their part to raise their family in the social scale.

8. The foreclosing of the money-lender, who is usually a Christian, is one of the causes for the rapid transfer of property from Moslems to Christians which is now going on round all the larger towns, and this change is greatly accelerated by the cruel preference of the conscription, which is steadily destroying the Moslem population. The Moslems of Turkey make excellent soldiers, but the annual levy is a heavy burden, taking, as it does, the pick of the manhood just as they reach the time when they are most wanted at home. During peace the conscription prevents the Moslems ever keeping peace with the Christians; during war it makes fearful inroads into their numbers. A source of weakness, this Moslem conscription is still blindly adhered to by the Porte, who know that, once the despised rayah is admitted to the army, civil disabilities must be removed. Consequently, the Sultan and his advisers deliberately prefer that the Empire should fall by decay than that that power should pass from the hands of a race which, whatever may have been its former virtues, has now lost the art of governing.

9. The Christians of the Empire are no better, if as good, as the Moslems, but the

Christians have hope in a future, whilst the Moslems are resigned to their fate. The Christian is capable of learning, and may in time develop honest qualities, which are now hid under the result of generations of corruption. In Turkey cunning and intrigue take the place of learning and honesty, but if an honest Government could be introduced, there is reason to hope that in time the latent good in the rayah character might be developed.

10. Both Moslem and Christian are fully assured of a change in the present Government; what form that change may take is undefined, but all, more or less, look to foreign domination. Unless some strong foreign influence is brought speedily to bear the Ottoman Empire will fall to pieces, without hope of reunion, and with chaos for its future. Turkey in Europe is dissolving into independent or semi-independent States, and the experiment gives promise of success wherever the population is homogenous. In Anatolia such a solution is impossible. Except in the islands it is rare to find a town, much less a district, occupied by our race, and to put one of the many races or creeds in power is to disaffect all the others. Before any attempt at self-government can be made in Asiatic Turkey, the rule by communities must be abolished. The "millets" have been a necessity for the preservation of the subject communities under the present régime, but their very existence has intensified the local jealousies, and the sooner they are abolished the easier will be the future welding of the whole into a homogenous map. In Anatolia patriotism is unknown, but there is a remarkable love of the native place, and, amongst the Moslems, reverence for the Sultan was formerly a profound bond of union.

11. This want of patriotism reacts most painfully on the country, where it prevents the undertaking of any concerted work. Banks are virtually unknown. Credit is never or rarely given. No Insurance Company will accept policies in the interior. Carriers take no risk once goods are landed on the coast. Public works do not exist except here and there, when an energetic Pasha makes a spasmodic effort. There is no continuity in anything, and to all suggestions for improvements is returned the stereotyped reply "No money." The land is very fertile, and in parts very rich; the climate, though subject to extremes of heat and cold, is, on the whole, good, but agriculture is the same as it was centuries ago. Minerals are found scattered over the country in every direction, but, except in some mismanaged mine, they are unworked. The forests, which might have been of such value in softening the climate, providing fuel, and supplying timber, are being ruthlessly destroyed. There is wealth yet in the land, and money in abundance is found to fatten the parasites of the corrupt Government; but the soldiers are unpaid, the minor employés and zaptiehs only partially, and that in arrears. Maladministration is rapidly ruining the country; there is no hope of internal regeneration, but it is useless to speak of reform in the provinces whilst the disease is rooted in Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 161.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 10. Political.)

Van, March 17, 1880.

Sir,

I RECEIVED yesterday a letter written to me from Bashkala by the desire of Toussoun Pasha, the Mutessarif of Hakkiari.

He informs me that he has written to the Vali of Van and to the Imperial Commissioners, strongly urging the formation of a cordon of posts on the Turco-Persian frontier for the purpose of restraining the lawless Kurdish tribes that commit so many depredations on both sides of the frontier, and he begs me to support his proposition. Eight points are named for the establishment of these posts stretching from the roads between Van and Khoi and Khotour on the north, to the boundary between the Sandjak of Hakkiari and the Vilayet of Mosul on the south. A garrison of from twenty to thirty cavalry is proposed for each post. There can be no doubt that some measure of the kind is necessary for the security of that part of the country, and I am glad to say the Commissioners have told me to-day that they are writing to Constantinople to recommend its adoption.

My correspondent also says that the affair of Jehangir Agha, that I mentioned in my despatch No. 2 Political, of the 2nd February, 1880, has not yet been settled, although

the Commissioners informed me more than three weeks ago that they had arranged the matter.

I propose to start to-morrow, or as soon as the weather permits, for Bitlis, to make the acquaintance of the new Vali, in accordance with the proposition I made to you and sanctioned by you by telegraph.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 161.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 2. Commercial.)

Van, March 17, 1880.

Sir,

I REGRET to say that the condition of the country as regards famine is getting worse. Last week a report came from Bashkala of 138 deaths that had occurred in that district, and yesterday Dr. Reynolds, one of the American Missionaries, showed me a letter that he had received from an Armenian protestant there in which the condition of things was said to be very miserable. The Government had recommended to each nationality to look after their own poor. Among the Turks and Jews there are a considerable number of rich men, but the Bashkala Armenians are none of them rich, and can do but little to help the very poor. The writer said he knew of one family that consisted of seven persons; of these four had died and the remaining three when he saw them were so weak they could not walk.

Toussoun Pasha, the Mutessarif, has sent here two delegates—one a Christian and the other a Turk—to ask for aid, and the Commissioners have granted 200 Van kilés in addition to the 200 already allotted to Bashkala, but unfortunately there has been lately such heavy snow storms of which still continue, and there is such a want of forage on the road, and besides the villagers have lost so many of their animals, that only about half of the first allotment has yet been able to be fetched. From Nurduz and Shaddakh there is no recent news, as the roads are impassable, but I see only too great cause to fear their state is at least equally bad. It is also reported from Bashkala that the people are grinding a kind of stone to make bread.

To add to the distress the Government at Constantinople has issued an Order that the beshlik and "métallique" currency are not to be received in payment of taxes for the year beginning the 1st of this month, except to the extent of 5 per cent., but payment must be made either in silver or gold. The consequence is that the value of those currencies has fallen to one-third of what it was previously, and as the money in possession of the poor and villagers in these parts consists almost entirely in these currencies, it is impossible as yet to realize the amount of loss, hardship, and misery the order will entail upon them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 161.

Captain Stewart to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 8. Political.)

Siirt, March 26, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency of my arrival here on the 23rd instant, and of my having taken up the duties of Vice-Consul at this place, pending the return of the Consul-General.

2. His Excellency, Abeddin Pasha, left on the 1st March to take up his appointment at Salonica. He is to be succeeded by Hakki Pasha, now Mutessarif of Samsoun.

3. I am informed Hakki Pasha left Samsoun on the 24th instant, and is expected here in a few days.

4. The Defterdar has also been ordered to the Vilayet of Salonica. He leaves on the arrival of Hakki Pasha.

5. I have forwarded a telegram from Lieutenant Chermside, dated Mosul, to Colonel Wilson, stating that Baker Pasha will arrive here towards the end of the month.

6. When at Kaisseria, in accordance with Foreign Office despatch No. 12,

I informed Dr. Pascal that he was no longer to consider himself under British protection.

7. Everywhere on the road, in the towns and villages, the late changes in the currency appeared to cause a great deal of dissatisfaction. In many cases the shops were shut, the people refusing to sell, and many were the complaints I heard from the peasantry against this arbitrary change, and the losses they thereby incurred. Zaptiehs and others, to whom were due arrears of pay, stated that they were being paid in beshlik, taken at its own value, thereby exactly losing half their salary.

8. I regret to state that there appears an inclination on the part of the authorities to take advantage of the departure of Abeddin Pasha to reappoint Bahri Bey as Kaïmakam of Zara. This official, I am informed, was temporarily removed by the late Vali, pending an inquiry into several accusations brought against him by the inhabitants. Mr. Richards, who has just returned from a visit to Zara, informs me that the whole Christian population of that town, along with many Moslems, express the greatest horror and dread of this man. They state that he knocked down the walls of the Christian cemetery and employed the materials in building his house, on the construction of which he compelled 150 Christians to labour without any remuneration; cases of refusal were imprisoned. His licentiousness knows no limits, and is notorious throughout the caza, and his associates are all the robbers and ruffians of the place, whom he openly protects.

9. Should he return, 150 Armenian families have declared they will leave, so intense is there abhorence of his personal character and the fear they entertain of his revenge. The Consul-General has, I believe, already written about him, and I would beg your Excellency to use your influence to have the case summarily dealt with.

10. Bahri Bey is, I understand, an agent of Mehemet Ali, who appears to be very influential in this vilayet, and like most Notables, to use his influence entirely for personal ends. He is said to have a network of agents scattered over the province, either as officials or as members of Councils, and but little is said to go on without his sanction or approval. (*Vide* Consul-General's despatch No. 11 of November 1879).

11. I have protested in the strongest terms to the Defterdar against any attempt to reappoint this man. He has answered me that nothing of the kind is contemplated. I have, however, little if any faith in his assertion, having reason to believe that there is a concerted plan for this purpose, the only hindrance being the opposition of the Armenian Bishop, who has, as yet, manfully resisted all attempts to induce him, as a member of the Idaré Medjliss, to sign the order of reappointment.

12. The prisons here are overflowing with criminals, many of them notorious robbers and murderers. The Mudaï Uman tells me that in many cases it is exceedingly difficult to get the necessary evidence to come forward, the people having no faith in the Courts, and dreading the revenge of these scoundrels. The ordinary Law Courts appear almost unequal to the task of dealing with such cases. He recommends a Military Commission with extended powers.

13. In the event of any of these men being sentenced to death, it would be advisable to carry out the sentence. Such a punishment would doubtless have an excellent effect throughout the vilayet, and do more than anything else to diminish crime.

14. Here, at Sivas, since the recent changes in the currency, many of the shops have remained closed. There is a great unwillingness to accept beshlik, and even medjidiehs are not in favour, owing probably to the number of false ones which are said to be in circulation. There is also a great scarcity both here and elsewhere of 20-para pieces, a cause of great hardship to the poorer town classes and peasantry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 5 in No. 161.

Captain Stewart to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 10. Political.)

Sir, *Sivas, April* 4, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 1st April I was visited by a number of the inhabitants of Zara, who have come to bear witness against Bahri Bey, the Kaïmakan of that place.

They inform me that about sixty witnesses have come up, and more will come if necessary.

From what I can learn, I have little doubt that many of the accusations brought against this man are true. His licentiousness is, I am told, very great. The peasants assert, although I cannot but think this statement to be exaggerated, that no man's wife or daughter is safe from him and his associates.

To make the matter still worse, they say that this ruffian carries out his designs in the most open and shameless manner, actually ordering the wretched peasantry to bring him their wives and daughters.

I must, however, add that the people, when asked, have declined to press the accusation against him, asserting that although there is plenty of proof, they are ashamed to expose the dishonour of their wives, daughters, and sisters to the public gaze.

I purpose to bring this matter before the new Vali without delay, but would also beg of your Excellency to use your influence to have the case properly investigated. Bahri Bey has many influential friends both here and at Constantinople. He is a son of Mustafa Pasha, and a nephew of Ismail Hakki Pasha. I am afraid the utmost I can expect from the Tribunal here is his dismissal, but I think justice demands that he should be more severely punished.

I inclose a copy of the petition sent by the people of Zara.

I have also the honour to inform you that Hakki Pasha, the new Vali, arrived here to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

Inclosure 6 in No. 161.

Petition from the Christians of Zara against Bahri Bey, the Kaïmakam.

SOME two years ago it became generally known throughout the vilayet that Bahri Bey, our Kaïmakam, had been, and was still, guilty of acts of violence and oppression in our caza. His Excellency, Abeddin Pasha, summoned him to the capital of the vilayet to answer the charges brought against him, where he was detained during a period of several months. Immediately after Abeddin Pasha's departure for Stamboul, a rumour was spread that the suspended Kaïmakam was about to return to his duties. This being the case, we beg to present a petition stating categorically the oppressive acts and insulting conduct of Bahri Bey.

1. Bahri Bey, from the day he arrived here, has collected around him all the robbers and good-for-nothing fellows in the caza, and with them has committed every kind of disgraceful action, no young girl being safe from his insulting addresses.

Consequently, we are anxiously waiting for the announcement that he has been removed, and will not return here, for should he do so he will recommence his disgraceful conduct, and so intimidate us to such an extent that we should not have the courage to speak out openly as we do now.

2. One Sunday while we were engaged in our devotions in Church, Bahri Bey, through the instrumentality of his nephew, Arif Effendi, sent some cavalry soldiers, who entered the church, interrupted the service, and drove out the inhabitants, telling them: "You have debts, you must pay them," and then threw them into prison. Afterwards he made them labour by force, and without remuneration, at the house which he had begun to build.

3. The defendant threw down parts of the walls of the cemetery which we Christians had built at a cost of from 20,000 to 25,000 piastres, and employed this material in the construction of his own private residence, and by so doing put us to the expense of nearly 15,000 piastres.

4. Since the defendant came to Zara more than 1,000 sheep and goats have been stolen. Inasmuch as the robbers were aided in their nefarious acts by the Kaïmakam himself, we soon understood that any complaint which we might make would have no result, and we had no choice but to keep silent. Since Beyri Pasha has left, nobody has suffered any loss whatever either in property or in point of honour.

This being the state of the case, should Bahri Bey return here we shall all of us be ruined. We, therefore, your petitioners, earnestly beg and entreat your Excellency to have pity on our forlorn condition, and implore you to find some means, whatever seems best to you, to prevent the return of this man. Hence this petition.

(Signed by four leading Armenians.)

March 4, 1880 (o. s.).

No. 162.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received April* 29.)

(No. 21. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, April* 13, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Eldridge's despatch No. 15 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch and its inclosure which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting further on the subject of the complaints against Yusef-el-Mamlouk and Halil-el-Assaad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 162.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 28.)
Sir, *Beyrout, April* 13, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Eldridge's despatch of the 11th ultimo, and to your Excellency's despatch of the 24th ultimo, instructing him to deal with the matter of the complaints against El-Mamlouk and Halil-el-Assaad as he thinks best, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Excellency's information, a précis of a Bouyourldi issued by the Vilayet of Syria on the 23rd June, 1871, exiling Yusef Aga-el-Mamlouk from the district of Tyre for his oppressive and arbitrary acts.

I understand that the authorities are at present investigating the subject of the complaints against El-Assaad and El-Mamlouk, and therefore I have refrained from taking any steps in the matter until I am aware of the result of the inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 162.

Résumé du Bouyourldi émané du Conseil du Vilayet de Syrie, et d'après lequel le Mutessarifat de Beyrouth a mandé ce qui suit le 4 Rabii Sani 88 (*Hégire*) *No.* 140 (*June* 23, 1871).

ON n'ignore pas qu'antérieurement, vu les nombreuses plaintes si souvent réitérées contre Youssef Aga Mamlouk, habitant de Sour, un Iradé Impérial ordonna son exclusion de toutes relations, son expulsion de Sour, et sa déportation à un lieu éloigné de cette ville, afin de l'empêcher de s'immiscer dans les affaires publiques, de lui enlever le pouvoir qu'il s'est arrogé sur les habitants de Sour, et de mettre fin au cours de ses intrigues et machinations; cependant, pour des considérations locales, nous nous étions adressés à la Sublime Porte et l'avions engagée à accepter en faveur de Mamlouk un arrangement provisoire, nous contentant en attendant de lui faire faire des remontrances sévères et de prendre de lui l'engagement formel de ne plus commettre des actes si contraires à la volonté Impériale sous conditions de se voir exiler dans le cas qu'il ne tint pas son engagement. Notre intervention auprès de la Sublime Porte réussit et ce qui précède fut accordé et établi: Mais, vu le funeste penchant de son caractère, qui ne peut le retenir dans la bonne voie, vu ses mauvaises dispositions qui le portent toujours à agir contre l'honnêteté et le bien, Mamlouk a oublié nos remontrances, trahi ses engagements, et s'est conduit tout-à-fait contre la volonté Impériale; dès lors, toutes ses actions furent réprouvées, des plaintes se levèrent contre lui de toutes parts, toutes les voies le condamnèrent dans sa conduite et ces principes; il se donna aux menées honteuses, devint l'objet des préoccupations du Caïmacamat de Sour et de ses dépendances, sévit contre les habitants par son astuce et ses intrigues de toutes sortes, fit commettre à divers employés du Gouvernement par la corruption et la simonie des actes illégaux et injustes aux dépens des habitants, et même parvint à faire perdre au Miri des ressources importantes qu'il s'arrogea pour assouvir sa cupidité et servir ses propres intérêts personnels. Nous reconnaissons donc indispensable son expulsion de Sour, pour sauvegarder les droits des habitants, faire cesser ses intrigues, rendre au pays la tranquillité par lui compromise, rétablir l'autorité du Gouvernement

et sauver les ressources du Miri; aussi intimons-nous l'ordre définitif de chasser Mamlouk de Sour dans le plus bref délai, de le faire résider à St. Jean d'Acre, à Saïda, ou bien dans tout autre lieu indépendant et éloigné du Caïmacamat de Sour, sans accepter de lui aucun autre arrangement, ni aucune intervention de quelque part que ce soit, et cela à seule fin d'enlever les désordres du Caïmacamat de Sour.

No. 163.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 1.)

(No. 18. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Smyrna, April* 17, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Captain Cooper, who returns to England next week, takes with him a number of topographical sketches in an unfinished state, and the material for a valuable military Report on the districts he has visited whilst employed as one of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls in Anatolia.

It is very desirable that Captain Cooper should have an opportunity of placing the information which he has collected in a form convenient for reference, and I would beg to suggest, for your Lordship's favourable consideration, that the question of his employment for this purpose in the Intelligence Department of the War Office be submitted to the War Department.

I have, on a previous occasion, drawn your Lordship's attention to the manner in which Captain Cooper has carried out the duties intrusted to him as one of Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls in Anatolia, and I would beg to take this opportunity of requesting that the services which he has rendered in collecting valuable military information respecting a district which, in the event of military operations in Anatolia, would be of extreme importance, may be brought to the notice of the Secretary of State for War and of His Royal Highness the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-chief.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 164.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(*Received May* 4.)

(No. 156.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 26, 1880.

THE "Levant Herald," a newspaper edited by an Englishman, Mr. Whitaker, has been suppressed for publishing some articles setting forth the grievances of the Armenians, and advocating, in forcible language, their claims to justice, protection, and better government, which are termed, in the Decree of the Censor of the Press, "seditious." The two leading Armenian newspapers published at Constantinople, the "Masis," and "Turdjeman Evkel," have been likewise suppressed for similar reasons. An Armenian Committee formed here for raising subscriptions for the relief of the Armenians suffering from famine in the districts of Erzeroum and Van has also, it is stated, been dissolved by order of the Turkish Government, which now looks with extreme disfavour and suspicion upon everything which may bring to the notice of Europe the lamentable condition of the Christian and other populations of Asiatic Turkey.

I inclose an extract from the Turkish newspaper, the "Vakit," giving an official reason for the suppression of the "Levant Herald."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 164.

Extract from "La Turquie" of April 2.

LE "Vakit" publie la communication officielle suivante:—

"M. Whitaker, propriétaire du "Levant Herald," récemment supprimé, a publié, il y a quelques jours, en Français et en Anglais, sans permission légale, un papier à l'adresse des habitants de Constantinople.

"Dans ce papier il annonce qu'un Comité formé pour venir en aide aux Arméniens affamés aurait été dissout par la Sublime Porte.

"Le Gouvernement Impérial a toujours eu à cœur le bien-être de ses sujets fidèles et a toujours cru de son devoir de leur venir en aide en cas de besoin. Il s'empresse donc de publier officiellement que la fausse nouvelle de M. Whitaker à été rédigée de manière à refroidir le peuple Arménien à l'égard de son Gouvernement légitime et à faire voir à l'Europe que ce peuple est opprimé par le Gouvernement Impérial."

No. 164 A.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 294. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, May 5, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the intention expressed by your Excellency in your despatch No. 424, Confidential, of the 16th ultimo, of communicating to the Sultan the Report drawn up by Colonel Wilson of the state of the country visited by him during his journey from Sivas to Constantinople.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 164 B.

Consul Billiotti to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 6. Political.)

Trebizond, April 20, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the local authorities having decided to locate in the district of Yumrah a few Laz families who have emigrated last year to Trebizond, the inhabitants strongly protest against the decision.

The Greek and Armenian Archbishops have informed me that their co-religionists in that locality declare that rather than accept Lazes in their vicinity they would shift themselves to any other quarter that might be assigned to them by the Government.

I am far from believing that native Christians would go the length of doing what they say, but their statement shows the intensity of the disfavour with which they view the proposed arrangement, and I am assured, by competent parties, that Mussulmans themselves, though abstaining, owing to religious motives, from publicly expressing their opinion, are no less adverse to the project. This feeling prevailed since the cession of Batoum to Russia, when the Lazes expressed the wish to emigrate to Turkey.

At that time the Administrative Council of this province having been applied to, declared that there were no convenient spots for new settlers. However, as there were in fact sufficient available lands, it was at a later period decided that between 4,500 and 5,000 Laz families would be located in this vilayet.

Spots were selected, and about 2,000 families, who had emigrated at an early period, settled in some of them.

A few other families, who had arrived too late, were allowed to live as well as they could in towns and villages, and it is their location on the lands reserved for them that is not seen with favour by the natives.

It must be owned, however, that the opposition of the rural populations is based on motives which are far from being groundless.

The Government expect that the peasants in whose vicinity Lazes settle should help them in erecting dwellings, in tilling and even sowing their lands with their own (the peasants') seed.

These are hard enough conditions to submit to, but experience has shown that they are below the real liabilities incurred by the rural populations.

The new settlers are not always satisfied with the lands allotted to them, they often change place in the expectation to find more eligible spots, and each time the peasants are compelled to assist them in taking down and re-erecting their wooden huts.

Lazes in general enjoy a bad reputation, which has been increased by popular exaggeration to such an extent that now no depredations take place without their being attributed to Lazes, though they are often perpetrated by natives.

Be this as it may, there is little security in the vicinity of the places where they reside.

On their arrival in Turkey last year, Laz immigrants received from the Government rations, which being suppressed, nearly caused an outbreak when a few months ago the Governor-General of this vilayet was inspecting their settlements at Tripoli, and since the burden to provide for their immediate wants has fallen on the natives.

Under these circumstances it is quite natural that the rural populations should be greatly alarmed at the prospect of Laz emigrants settling in their neighbourhood.

It is remarkable that while there are extensive tracts of land presenting all the advantages required by new settlers, and especially adapted, by the natural features of the ground, for Lazes, while the latter would much more prefer living in large congregations without being separated form their relations, kinsmen, and friends; and while native populations are so adverse to Lazes being scattered amongst them, the Government follow the line of conduct which is less calculated to satisfy all parties.

The only inference to be drawn is that the Government want to throw off their hands the responsibility to maintain the immigrants in uninhabited lands, and leave this burden on the rural populations, who cannot accept it without ruinous consequences for themselves, and when it is considered that this charge is not to be equally divided by the inhabitants of all the vilayet, it must be confessed that the liabilities of the residents of certain districts or spots will be of an extremely grievous character.

There can be no possible doubt that the presence of Lazes in different places will increase the insecurity of the vilayet. I am quite prepared to admit that they are not so bad as they are represented to be; indeed, the last information which I have received from Ordoo is that now there are no motives of complaint against them.

But, as they cannot be expected to allow themselves to starve, the chances are that, being without resources, they will help themselves from their neighbours. Furthermore, their presence cannot fail to furnish an opportunity to ill-intentioned natives, for assuming, as they do even now, on a small scale, the name and dress of Lazes, in order to perpetrate depredations with impunity.

I wish it to be understood that my present remarks are in no way to be construed as hostile to the Lazes. On the contrary, I consider that their manly behaviour, and the efficient services which they rendered to the Turkish Government during the late war, entitle them to a different treatment from that which Circassian and Abazinn emigrants have met at the hands of the Porte. And there can be no doubt that, if they be transferred to Anatolia, and left with no other possible help from the Government but that which can voluntarily be given by, or exacted from, the impoverished populations of this quarter, they are doomed to the same fate as that of all emigrants that preceded them in Turkey, who died by thousands, and whose remnants carried everywhere with them misery and terror.

As Trebizond yields but a limited quantity of cereals, it always depends for its supplies on the provinces where famine is raging at present, and its consequences are felt by the inhabitants of this vilayet to a degree of intensity which is not, perhaps, realized in the capital. The district of Samsoon, which has of late provided us with grain, seems to be drained to the extent that the authorities are discussing the opportunity of prohibiting the exportation of the little corn that remains, and which is hardly sufficient for local consumption until the coming harvest, the prospects of which are quite uncertain as yet. The severity of the winter has caused thousands of animals to perish from cold and hunger, and while it has, for the last six months, also put a complete stop to Persian transit, the cost of living has so much increased, that it is now above that of Constantinople. The populations in general are therefore reduced to such an incredible state of misery (to which the financial measures adopted from time to time by the Government have not little contributed), that they can hardly provide for their own wants. They could not, under these circumstances, be of any assistance to the Laz immigrants, who would, in consequence, find themselves in an intolerable position.

Besides the foregoing motives, there is another of no less moment, rendering unad-

visable the transfer of Laz emigrants during the present year. The necessary arrangements not being yet completed, their exodus from Batoum could not take place before two or three months, and it would be too late at that time to erect dwellings, till and sow fields, and place them in a position to gather crops in the ensuing season. The hardships to which natives as well as emigrants must in all cases be subjected to would extend to two, instead of to one year. It would therefore be an act of humanity for both parties to postpone the transfer of Lazes to Turkey till next year, when it should take place very early in the spring and not later than the months of April or May.

In the meantime, a Commission might be sent from Constantinople to inquire into, and report on the most convenient way to locate the emigrants, and should considerations of a higher order induce the Government to make, until then, no alterations in their present plans, at all events there will be the hope that in the interval the condition of the native populations may improve to the extent that they should be able to bear without being crushed, as it would now be the case, the burden of the Laz immigration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 165.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Diarbekir, April* 5, 1880.

LIEUTENANT CHERMSIDE, R.E., C.M.G., having returned here from Mosul, I accompanied him as far as Aghaun Maaden, on the road to Kharput, in the hope of intercepting Baker Pasha while *en route* for that town, and discussing with him the measures necessary for the relief of the province. We reached Maaden two hours after General Baker left it, but unfortunately, while entering the town, the horses ridden by Lieutenant Chermside and myself simultaneously reared and fought with each other, and in a few seconds both horses and riders were on the ground. We were both severely bruised and quite unable to follow up General Baker, so, after laying up a day or two at Maaden, I returned to Diarbekir.

Lieutenant Chermside (who is also disfigured in a most painful and ghastly manner by several Aleppo boils on his nose and other parts of his face) continued his journey to Kharput, where, if he be wise, he will lay up, or he may probably lose a considerable portion of his nose. Lieutenant Chermside's recent severe illnesses and his late rapid journey to Mosul and back without the possibility of obtaining adequate nourishment have left him very thin and emaciated.

I take this opportunity of stating that I am myself still suffering from the effects of a severe accident I received while on the journey here from Erzeroum last December. My horse fell on a slippery road, and I was thrown with great violence on my left shoulder, the joint of which was injured, to what extent it is impossible to say in the absence of a competent surgeon. I have been partially unable to use my left arm ever since, and have suffered much pain, but I always hoped that the warm weather would bring relief. The warm weather persistently abstains from making its appearance, so I am unable to say as yet whether or not it will be necessary for me to proceed to Europe for proper surgical treatment. I take this opportunity, however, of informing your Lordship about my accident to enable your Lordship the better to understand any telegram that I may subsequently send should I be compelled to apply for medical leave to Europe.

Should I be compelled to proceed to Europe for a few weeks or months, I propose (in the absence of any instructions from your Lordship to the contrary) to direct the Vice-Consuls at Erzeroum and Van to correspond direct with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

Mr. Boyajian, the Acting Vice-Consul of Diarbekir, is in a few weeks' time about to proceed to England. As your Lordship may probably wish to have an opportunity of conversing personally with a gentleman of intelligence and probity who has lived for many years past in Diarbekir, and is thoroughly acquainted with the ins and outs of the administration of the country, I shall take the liberty of furnishing that gentleman with a letter of introduction to your Lordship.

Mr. Boyajian's departure will leave vacant the Vice-Consulate of Diarbekir, and it will be very difficult to fill his place. Mr. Cumming, the gentleman whom I proposed for the post last year, has left the country for good. There is only one British subject resident here, and he is an employé of the Ottoman Government. I could not, moreover, recommend him for the post.

In the present critical state of the country it is not desirable that Her Majesty's Government be left without trustworthy information as to the state of affairs in this neighbourhood. I therefore propose, in the event of my going to Europe, or in the alternative event of my proceeding to the northerly provinces of my Consular jurisdiction, to leave temporarily in charge of the Vice-Consulate my recently appointed assistant, Mr. Barnham. I would not, under ordinary circumstances, have made this proposal, for the climate of Diarbekir is notoriously unhealthy, especially in the hot season, and I would have greatly preferred to have left the Consulate in charge of an acclimatized resident whose private affairs would compel his residence in Diarbekir. Should it be decided to leave Mr. Barnham in charge, I propose to give permission to that gentleman to spend August and September, the two most unhealthy months of the year, at Kharput, an important town in my Consular jurisdiction, which has just been made the centre of a new vilayet.

In the event of the state of my health not compelling my return to Europe, I propose, as soon as circumstances will permit of my departure, to proceed to certain hitherto unvisited portions of my Consular district, beginning with Malatia, the western subdivision of this province. I hope later on in the year to make my way to Van and the eastern frontier, but until harvest time it will be almost impracticable to pass through the famine districts, where my presence, instead of alleviating suffering, would only aggravate it by giving additional mouths to feed. The funds at my disposal for famine purposes will be entirely expended in giving local relief.

As despatches from the Foreign Office frequently take two months to reach me, I beg respectfully to request that your Lordship will, on receipt of this despatch, telegraph to me at Diarbekir if your Lordship approves of my leaving Mr. Barnham in charge of the Vice-Consulate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 166.

Captain Stewart to Sir A. H. Layard.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 11.)

(No. 11. Political.)
Sir, *Sivas, April* 18, 1880.

WITH reference to the case of Bahri Bey mentioned in my despatch No. 10 of the 4th April, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that on the 9th instant I was visited by some of the witnesses against this man. They informed me that Bahri Bey had sent in his resignation, and asked my advice as to whether they were to go on with the case or not.

Taking into consideration the strong local party in favour of this man, the numbers of influential supporters he had in the Midjliss, the expense the witnesses would be put to by the doubtless prolonged proceedings, and the timorous character of the witnesses, I did not feel justified in advising them to push matters to an extremity.

Both on the 10th and 11th instant I brought the matter to the notice of his Excellency Hakki Pasha. He appeared to think the charges somewhat exaggerated, also that Bahri Bey was well supplied with excuses, and that the evidence was not very conclusive.

On the 14th instant the matter was brought before the Idaré Medjliss, when Hakki Pasha informed the prosecution that he had dismissed Bahri Bey. At the same time he gave them the option of taking the case before the Courts, adding that probably the inquiry would last some considerable time. They replied that now the man was removed they no longer saw the necessity of going on with the case.

The Zara people are to be congratulated on the satisfactory termination of this affair, but it is to be deplored that the Government in their own interest did not see the advisability of continuing the prosecution, and thoroughly sifting the truth of the charges.

This disinclination on the part of the Government to examine into the conduct and if necessary severely punish their officials, is one of the many causes tending to the demoralisation of the public service. Charges are made and witnesses come forward, when the official resigns and the inquiry collapses. The witnesses having got

rid of their tyrant have but little interest in going on with the case, and the Government does not see that it is its duty to do so. The result is that the official retires into private life for a short time, till either through his money or his influential friends, he succeeds in getting appointed to another, perhaps higher, post.

His Excellency Hakki Pasha, so far as I am able to judge from what he says, appears animated with the best intentions. I inclose a copy of the local paper with the speech he made on the day his Firman was read.

The Mudai Umum informs me that he is unable to get evidence against some of the most notorious criminals in the gaol here, witnesses being afraid to come forward. It seems difficult without giving the Courts some exceptional powers to know how to cope with this difficulty. That such well-known criminals can be released is impossible, but it is difficult to see how their conviction can be legally obtained. The opinion of many of the officials with whom I have spoken is that the present system of civil and criminal procedure with its numerous array of Judges and Courts, is not adapted to the requirements of the people, being both too complicated, cumbersome, and expensive.

I have also the honour to inform you their Excellencies Baker Pasha and Saïd Pasha arrived here to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART, *Captain, 11th Hussars.*

No. 167.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, May* 11.)

Koniah, April 22, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to inform your Excellency of my safe arrival here, after a tedious and difficult journey of fifteen days.

In the course of the journey I have traversed the Broussa vilâyet from west to east, and a considerable portion of the Koniah vilayet as well.

Everywhere the season is very late; the mountain ranges being still covered with snow, and the valley roads almost impassable owing to streams in flood, many of the bridges being broken or submerged.

The population, both Moslem and Christian, complain of dear bread and hard times. The apparent scarcity and high price of corn is the result of the visitation of locusts from which these districts suffered during the autumn of 1879. In addition to the loss caused by the grain and grass devoured at that time, there are great fears entertained of a repetition of the scourge, as the locusts have left millions of their cocoon-like eggs in the soil. Consequently, the grain in hand is stored away in granaries in case of famine, or held back from the market in hope of realizing higher prices. The Local Governments have made great efforts to combat the evil by collecting and destroying the locust eggs, and demand from every adult male 5 okes weight per head, to be delivered at the nearest Government building, where the responsible officers have deep pits dug, and the larvæ destroyed with quick-lime.

Loud and bitter complaints are made with regard to this measure, both by Moslems and Christians, but on quite different grounds. The Moslem looks upon such proceedings as an interference with the course of God's providence; His decrees, whether of judgment or mercy, are fore-ordained; it is therefore an act of impiety to attempt even to modify them. That such measures are the result of European or infidel suggestion, and it is, therefore, doubly sinful to enforce compliance with them on good Moslems.

The Christians, on the other hand, regard the Decree as simply a new mode of imposing an additional money tax, as being all engaged in commerce they cannot dig, and do not know where to search if they did, and they are accordingly compelled to employ and pay day labourers, at a season when such labour is both scarce and dear.

In spite of such remonstrances this Decree has been enforced with noteworthy promptitude and vigour; but there is much cause to fear that this energy will be thrown away, as the quantity so destroyed (estimated at 6,244 tons weight), large as it is, is but a portion of the whole, and I was shown some live specimens of the newly-hatched insect on my way hither.

The long and severe winter from which these two provinces have suffered has had a serious effect on the flocks and herds, and on the commerce they represent. Ahmet Vefyk Pasha estimates the loss of live stock for the Broussa Vilayet at 450,000 head.

The loss in the Koniah Vilayet is less serious, but still large. The sheep and goat tax-Returns, now complete, show a loss of mohair goats of 60 per cent. for Broussa, and 25 per cent. for Koniah Vilayets. It is some sort of compensation to the graziers who have lost so heavily, that the fear of diminished supplies has so far stimulated British demand for this product, that the value of the mohair they hold has been doubled, and prices continue rising steadily.

The same observation applies to the opium crop, which is a very large export from both provinces. The autumn-sown seed has been frozen in the soil, and it has become necessary to re-plough and sow afresh. The result of spring-sown opium is always doubtful, unless the season proves a rainy one; but in this case also, the revival of trade in England, and the enhanced value of stocks, will to some extent remunerate cultivators.

Large numbers of Circassian refugees have been sent to the Aksheir and Koniah districts. A large proportion of these are in a wretched and poverty-stricken condition; their numbers being rapidly diminished by death and disease. The more active of their number maintain themselves by robbery. They make no secret of their profession. "The Ottoman Government promised us (say they) waste lands on which to settle, and which we undertook to reclaim and cultivate, and this promise has never been kept. For some time they gave us rations, barely sufficient to support life, but these also have now been withdrawn, and we are told to look after ourselves. The people dislike and distrust us, and give us no employment, so no alternative is left us but robbery."

The consequence is that both in towns and villages cases of house-breaking and pillage occur nightly; the usual mode being by breaking through the thin mud walls composing the tenements. Christian shop-keepers are generally the victims. The terrified owners scream for help, but the local authorities and zaptiehs, afraid of their own personal safety, render no aid.

The Koniah "Konak," or Government building, was burned to the ground a fortnight ago. The total loss of public records, books, and documents, causes great confusion. The frequent recurrence of such fires, generally at a time when inquiry into malpractices is going on, and when it is particularly convenient to suspected officials they should occur, causes much comment.

The usual copies of this despatch will be forwarded by next post.

I have, &c.
(Signed). GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 168.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, May* 11.)

(No. 3 C.)

Erzeroum, April 24, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to inform you that, according to a telegram I have received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, the total amount of money placed at my disposal for the relief of the famine districts was 507*l.*

I have not received any answer from the Vali to my letter of the 17th instant, but I have been given to understand that telegraphic instructions were received by him yesterday from the Porte to distribute immediately 500 somars of grain in the Passin and 300 somars in Alashgerd for seed.

On Wednesday last I received a deputation from twenty-six villages in the Plain of Erzeroum complaining of their destitute condition, and imploring seed. They informed me that they had already petitioned the Vali, but without success. I have represented their case to his Excellency, who has replied that the Government will look to the matter.

The Armenians here are making great efforts for the relief of their own poor in this town; a second subscription has been set on foot, and I understand that a sum of £ T. 300 has been already collected.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 169.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 3. Political.)

Damascus, April 20, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting upon public affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 169.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 5.)

Damascus, April 20, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Ibrahim Pasha, Civil Governor of Damascus, has been permitted to change places with Edhem Pasha of Tripoli. The latter official is therefore now Mutessarif of Damascus.

M. Guys, French Consul at this city, has been raised to the rank of Consul-General, but owing to illness, has since been obliged to retire; and M. St. Jaffray, of Port Saïd, has been named in his place.

The Spanish Vice-Consulate of Damascus has been raised to the rank of a Consulate with increased pay.

The Porte has yielded so far to the representations of the Governor-General as to the serious loss to the Treasury which would accrue through collecting the tithes of this year's harvests on Government account, as to permit those of the quasi unsettled Sandjaks of Syria, such as the Hauran, Bekka, Homs, and Hamah, to be put up as usual to public competition.

In the five remaining sandjaks of the vilayet, namely, Damascus, Acre, Beyrout, Latakia, and Tripoli, the tithes will be collected directly by Government Agents, who are now being recruited for that purpose; to the exclusion it would seem of the Christian element. The loss accruing through this change of system is estimated as probably little short of £ T. 100,000.

An offer to farm the sheep tax of the vilayet for the present year for £ T. 60,000 has been rejected by the Porte, although strongly supported by the Vali. Last year this tax produced, when levied by officials on Government account, £ T. 45,000. Although the tax has been increased from 3 to 3½ piastres per head, the excessive mortality among sheep and goats caused by the recent severe winter, will probably result in this tax producing between £ T. 30,000 and £ T. 40,000.

The recent semi-demonetization of the debased metallic currency, although naturally attended with serious loss to, and great discontent among, the population, passed over without any popular commotion, thanks to the vigilance and attitude of the authorities. This currency has now well nigh disappeared from circulation.

The recent increase in the virghoo or "impôt foncier" on urban real estate from four to eight per mil on the value, has been met by the population declaring their inability (in writing), to pay it, owing to the depreciation in beshliks, and the ruinous sacrifices it has besides of late years been called upon to make at the request of the Government; and pointing out also, that while rich and influential proprietors have through occult influences hitherto contributed less than their proper proportion, the difference has had to be made by over-assessment of the tenements of the bulk (and poorest), of the people.

This petition or protest has been, I am informed, sent to the Sublime Porte by the Governor-General for further instructions.

As no taxes are at present available, the urgent requests of the Central Government for remittances (although coupled with orders to suspend all payments), have not been complied with; and the expenses incidental to the despatch the other day to Aleppo, of two battalions of nizam, in consequence of a further reported outbreak at Zeitoun, had to be met with borrowed money.

The recent translation from Turkish into Arabic, and publication at a moderate cost by Fares Shidiak, editor of the "Jewaib" newspaper of Constantinople, of the new judicial regulations, have been hailed with much satisfaction by the people who

are now in possession of knowledge touching their rights before the Courts which was before denied them.

The Tribunals appear to work more satisfactorily of late as regard stricter adherence to regulations and to the letter, if not the spirit, of the law; but I am unable to report any change for the better in the manner in which justice is administered.

In matters touching the police and the gendarmerie, I can only report most favourably.

As regards the five Kaïmakamliks of this Mutessarifflik, I have not of late been able to visit them, but I am able to state that the recent appointments of new Kaïmakams to those of Muallaka and Baalbeck made by his Highness, the Vali, have been productive of much good both to the public and the Treasury; a fact worthy of notice, inasmuch as these two places, the most prosperous and populous district in the Mutessarifflik of Damascus, have hitherto enjoyed a most unenviable notoriety for the corruption and malversation of officials connected with them.

The independence of the Tribunals of the Executive power continues to be a source of complaint on the part of the latter on account of the alleged facilities to evasion of justice offered to criminals by the action of the Courts in adhering too strictly to forms and regulations, if to nothing else, applicable to a more advanced state of civilization than Syria at present presents. In most of the sandjaks of Syria the orders of the Governor-General that no criminal shall be set at liberty without the permission of the Chief of the Executive, responsible as the latter is held for the safety of his district, are duly executed. In others, however, the Mutessarif chooses rather to obey the Edicts of the Porte, enjoining full liberty of action of Tribunals, and thus gives effect to the Edicts of the latter, no matter how dangerous to the public weal.

I am happy to be able to report to your Excellency, that the new system of administration introduced in the Druze mountain of the Hauran on the cessation of the disturbances there last autumn, appears to work satisfactorily; and that the probity and energy of the new Druze Kaïmakam displayed in the common interests of the Government, and his people have gone far to destroy the quasi feudal powers of the Shiekhs, and to enlist on his side the sympathies and adherence of the population to the new order of things.

Difficulties and intrigues from outside, notably in the Mutessarifflik of the Hauran, from whose jurisdiction it was withdrawn to depend directly upon Damascus, have not been wanting, but as the Druze Governor of the mountain seems to have the approval and support of the Governor-General, I trust that such may be potent enough to warrant his prolonging his voluntary exile from Mount Lebanon, thus giving a fair chance of success to an attempt made to remove permanently a thorn from the side of the Government of Syria.

In conclusion, I am happy to be able to inform you that the harvests of Syria, now close at hand, promise abundantly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 170.

Vice-Consul Jago to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 4. Political. Confidential.)

Damascus, April 20, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch, Confidential, of this day's date, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting upon public affairs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Inclosure in No. 170.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 6. Confidential.)

Damascus, April 20, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that two public prosecutions of functionaries for receiving bribes and for malversation of office have lately taken place here, and have excited much wholesome interest in both the official and the public mind.

The Administrative Council of the vilayet being the competent Tribunal in such cases to pronounce sentence after the preliminary investigation by the Court of First Instance of the Liva, the Governor-General, in his quality of President of the Council, has taken a prominent and dominant part in the framing of the sentences.

In the one case, the accused, the late Kaïmakam of the Jebel Ajloon, in the Mutessarillik of the Hauran, a renegade Jew, together with the Cashier of the district, a Christian, were charged with receiving bribes for appointments to posts of Mudirs and members of Medjlisses, and have been sentenced to three years' incarceration and to a fine of 600*l.*, being double the amount of bribes received, and to the payment also of 8,000 piastres, expenses of a Commission of Preliminary Investigation sent to the Jebel Ajloon.

The parties have appealed against the sentence to Constantinople, but having been imprisoned to enforce payment of costs, have been enlarged on bail, by invoking the "Constitution" of Midhat Pasha against the irregularities of procedure of the preliminary investigation. The appeal to Constantinople, and the unfavourable comments of the public to the disparagement of the Governor-General on the case, are based upon the allegation of the accused, and which are said to have been amply substantiated by the investigations and evidence that the bribes were encashed for and paid over to the chief Executive of the Hauran, namely, the Mutessarif, a Moslem Notable, nominee of the Governor-General, and who had hitherto enjoyed a not too high character for probity.

From all I can learn I fear there is little doubt as to the culpability of this latter. The official in question resigned last autumn, when the accusations first came to be made, on the ground of alleged ill-health, and has since been employed by the Vali in investigating charges of venality and malversation in various parts of the vilayet, and notably in that touching the conduct of Yusef Agha el-Mamlook, and Halil Bey el-Assaad, Kaïmakam of Tyre, the peculiar character of which latter investigation was, I believe, lately reported upon to your Excellency by Mr. Consul-General Eldridge.

His Highness Midhat Pasha is thus accused of screening his protégé, and was obliged to exercise much and arbitrary pressure upon some of the members of the Court, to get them to sign the sentence against the renegade Jew and the Christian, the members at first declining to sign it unless the real culprit was also brought to justice.

The other case is one touching the payment of "backsheesh" exacted by officials connected with rebate of land tax, chiefly in the district of Baalbeck, and in which an English gentleman was, among many others, a victim. As this case was brought, I believe, to the notice of Midhat Pasha by Mr. Consul-General Eldridge during the former's stay in Beyrout last winter, and has been by the latter reported, I am informed, to your Excellency, I do not consider it necessary to repeat the details. All the chief officials of the Land Tax Office of Damascus and Baalbeck have been dismissed by Midhat Pasha in consequence of the investigations ordered by him. The Kaïmakam of Baalbeck has been similarly treated. Sentence, however, has not yet been pronounced by the Administrative Council, or rather, I should say, by his Highness, who governs practically the decisions in such cases; but I am given to understand that the final sentence may be found to be based upon the ground of insufficiency of evidence to warrant legal conviction, although not the slightest moral doubt exists as to the culpability of the parties. The Cadi, however, has been permitted to return to his post, although he was, I believe, as bad as the rest, and a great deal worse if his office is taken into account.

With reference to these two prosecutions, I may be permitted to observe that the charges thus brought might be advanced with equal justice against almost every branch of Administration in Syria, such is the state of corruption which has been long chronic in the country; and that this state of things and the details thereof are public

property, and form the daily theme of the public, so that no new discovery to warrant preliminary and private investigation and inquiry is necessary. While the public voice unanimously supports his Highness in the action he has taken in these prosecutions, and no doubt is entertained as to his purity of motives, the disinclination shown by him to inquire into charges advanced against his own nominees leads to much unfavourable comment. Thus the present Mutessarif of the Hauran, who was removed from the Presidency of one of the Judicial Courts of Damascus by his Highness, owing to his gross incapacity and ignorance, was appointed to his present post last autumn, to the surprise of every one. Great and universal complaint is made against him on the score of bribery, drunkenness, and general inactivity, and a petition praying for his recall has been sent to the Sublime Porte, based upon general grounds, and complaining also of the inaction of the Governor-General. I believe, however, that his Highness has lately threatened the accused functionary with condign punishment unless he reforms his conduct.

A great change has come over the people during the late few months.

While the sentiments of the lower classes against the Government and the Governor-General are expressed forcibly and openly in the public streets without the slightest attempt at concealment, the sympathies of the better classes have been of late drawn towards the latter by the concurrence of opinion existing between them as to the ruin and confusion brought upon the country by the exactions, Edicts, and counter Edicts daily emanating from the Porte, and which are as openly expressed by both parties.

The chronic state of public discontent has lately found vent, whether spontaneously or otherwise it may be difficult to decide, in the self-creation of a Committee of Moslem notabilities of the people to discuss and find out some scheme of relief.

The utter want of unity of action or ideas preclude, however, the possibility of any practical result accruing from their deliberations, even if the task to which they have set themselves were more capable of solution; while the great wealth, and the notorious means by which it was acquired, of one or two of the members, would tend to show that the sentiment of patriotism alone is not possessed in a like degree by all.

A local Committee of notabilities has been formed under pressure from Midhat Pasha for stimulating extension and improvement of agriculture, but as security for property and person are alone requisite to attain these ends, I am afraid that the results, even if serious action were possible, will be found to be of the same barren nature as those of similar efforts made by his Highness to arouse public apathy with the view to improving the condition of things.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 171.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 470.)

Constantinople, April 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch addressed by Captain Everett to Mr. Consul Trotter, which he has sent to me, on the subject of the seed prospects in the districts of Passin, Alashgerd, and Bayazid.

I have communicated to the Sublime Porte the substance of this despatch.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 171.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 2 c.)

Erzeroum, April 16, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to inclose you the translation of a letter which I have addressed to the Vali on the subject of the spring-sowing in this vilayet. It will doubtless surprise you, as indeed it has surprised me, to learn that the Government holds in its possession so much grain, while the people are starving and clamouring for seed. But it is

nevertheless the case. The figures on which the calculation is based are obtained from a sure source, and I can have no doubt of their authenticity.

The Vali's principal consideration is how to comply with the demands made on him from time to time by the Imperial Treasury. His only method of doing this is by selling the wheat, especially at this time when prices are high—as in such a course he would not be unlikely to receive support from Constantinople, I cannot feel very confident in anything being done.

I have received information from Chanous that distress is showing itself in some of the villages, and that the refugees, of whom there are 900 families in the district, are getting rather troublesome, and are likely to prove more so when the roads open.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT, *Captain, 33rd Regiment.*

Inclosure 2 in No. 171.

Captain Everett to his Excellency the Governor-General, Erzeroum.

(Translation.)

Erzeroum, April 16, 1880.

Excellency,

I SHOULD not be doing my duty to you, nor yet fulfil that which has been entrusted to me by my Government, were I to neglect to call your most earnest attention to a matter, the gravity of which is of itself sufficient reason for my bringing it to your notice.

Your Excellency will remember that during the autumn of last year I made two journeys through the districts of Passin and Alashgerd, and that on my return from those journeys I pointed out—

1. That the inhabitants of those regions were likely to suffer very severely during the winter from want of wheat; and,

2. That unless some steps were immediately taken to supply grain for sowing, the greater portion of the districts would remain fallow.

The necessity of taking energetic steps to procure the people seed was urged upon you at that time, both by Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan and by myself. But the season passed without anything being done, and the fields remained, in a great measure, unsown.

Once again we are approaching the sowing season. In fifteen days the plain of the Upper Passin will, in all probability, be open, and in from three to four weeks' time (or perhaps in less) the plains of the Lower Passin, Alashgerd, and Bayazid, will be in a similar condition, and yet at this moment there are but 400 somars set aside in the Passin, and possibly not more than 150 somars in Alashgerd, that can be applied to this purpose.

The prospect, supposing that these districts should remain without seed, is simply appalling. The distress is great now. That isolated cases of starvation are now occurring is a fact beyond denial. That there are whole villages at this moment entirely destitute, I myself can bear witness to. But this distress, great as it is, will be as nothing compared to that which will occur next year if seed is not supplied to the inhabitants. The amount of snow which has fallen in these districts offers every prospect of a good harvest, but if seed is not furnished, I predict for next year a catastrophe perhaps as grave as that which occurred in Kaiserieh in 1872.

How such a disaster may be easily and economically avoided, will be seen from a perusal of the following scheme, the feasibility of which I shall be at all times glad to discuss with your Excellency.

The amount of grain at your disposal for all purposes at this moment is—

	Somars.
Baibart (saribash)	1,500
,, (barley)	900
Erzingan (wheat)	2,500
Erzeroum (wheat)	1,380
,, (barley)	1,440
Chanous (barley)	300
,, (wheat)	300
Terjan (saribash)	200
In the Passin (wheat)	400
Alashgerd (wheat)	150
Total	9,070

The Saribash is not sown at this season, it must therefore be deducted.

The rations for the troops in Erzeroum, calculated at 300 drams per man per diem for 154 days (*i.e.*, to the end of September, o.s.), will be as follow :—

	Somars.
900 men, at 300 drams per diem per man for 154 days	437
Likewise for the horses to the same date, at 3 okes 80 drams barley per horse per diem, as follows :—	
Artillery horses 400	
Cavalry 260	
At Hassankaleh 100	
760	
760 horses at the above rate	1,377

In Erzingan, a calculation is not so easily made, as the number of troops at that station fluctuates, but if 1,000 somars of wheat, and 1,800 somars of barley were allowed for the troops, it would probably be sufficient.

In order to carry out the scheme which I now suggest to your Excellency, I would propose to utilize the Saribash at Baibart for the troops, and place the horses on half rations. Moreover, I am of opinion that it would be exceedingly injudicious to remove the grain from Chanous, since reports are already coming in of dearth of grain in that region.

1,000 somars of saribash and 900 somars of barley might be transferred to Erzingan from Baibart, and the remaining 500 somars of saribash could be transported here. The sustenance of the troops would thus be provided for. But as this operation will take six weeks to complete, during which the troops must be fed, a further deduction of 100 somars for the troops in Erzeroum (at 17 somars per week), and 200 somars for those in Erzingan will be necessary.

The result may be tabulated thus—

	Amount in Hand.	For the use of the Troops.	Left for Sowing.
	Somars.	Somars.	Somars.
Baibart (saribath)	1,500	1,500	..
,, (barley)	900	900	..
Erzingan (wheat)	2,500	200	2,300
Erzeroum (wheat)	1,380	100	1,280
,, (barley)	1,440	739	701
Chanous (barley)*	300	..	..
,, (wheat)*	300	..	..
Terjan (saribash)*	200	..	200
Passin (wheat)	400	..	400
Alashgerd (wheat)	150	..	150
Total amount left for sowing ..			4,831

* Left where it is.

I do not propose that the whole of this amount should be transferred to the districts. The step would be injudicious and superfluous. The question is not to provide abundantly, but to stave off disaster. Briefly, then, I should be inclined to transfer 1,500 somars to the Passin, 1,000 somars to Alashgerd, and 400 somars to Bayazid, leaving a margin of 1,381 somars for emergencies. And it will be now seen by a study of the following paragraph on transport, that there will be no necessity to remove the 1,000 somars of saribash from Baibart to Erzingan, since sufficient wheat will be left in that place for the sustenance of the troops.

There is no doubt that the Passin people will transport for themselves from Erzeroum. Having 400 somars already in the district, they will take 1,100 from Erzeroum, leaving 881 somars still in this city. Of these, 850 somars must be transferred from Erzeroum to Toprak-Kaleh, and 150 somars being already there, the district of Alashgerd will be supplied. For Bayazid 369 somars must be transferred from Erzingan, added to the 31 remaining somars in Erzeroum. The cost of transport would be at most as follows :—

	£ T. p.
Transport of 850 somars from Erzeroum to Toprak-Kaleh, at 256 piastres the somar	2,125 00
Transport of 360 somars from Erzingan to Bayazid, at 559 piastres the somar ..	2,029 50
Transport of 31 somars from Erzeroum to Bayazid, at 400 piastres the somar ..	124 00
Transport of 500 somars of saribash from Baibart to Erzeroum, at 150 piastres the somar	750 00
	5,028 50

The details of the execution of this project I need not enter into. I have endeavoured to prove to your Excellency that a certain quantity of grain can be supplied to these districts whereby a large amount of life may be saved, by the expenditure of the small sum of about £ T. 5,000.

I am perfectly aware that your Excellency will tell me that it is impossible to obtain such a sum of money at the present time. But, as the Governor of this vilayet, it is equally impossible for you to clear yourself of responsibility for any loss of life which may occur through inefficient administration, until every means shall have been taken to prevent it.

If no attempt is made to guard against the possible disaster, and if the sum required for that purpose is not demanded, then most assuredly you will be held responsible for any consequences, even of a political nature, which might arise from this neglect.

In conclusion, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that I am sending a copy of this letter to Major Trotter, as also to Her Majesty's Ambassador in Constantinople, and I am convinced that any efforts you may make to obtain the necessary funds will be most heartily seconded by them.

Trusting that you will weigh over these words, which are written solely in the interests of the famished districts and in the cause of humanity,

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT, *Captain, 33rd Regiment.*

No. 172.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 476.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 30, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Broussa, requesting me to lay before any Committee having funds in hand for the relief of the sufferers from famine in Asia Minor a petition, likewise inclosed, from the Bishop of the Armenian Catholic community of Broussa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 172.

Vice-Consul Gilbertson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Broussa, April 24, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG you will have the kindness to lay before any Committee having funds in hand for the relief of those who suffer from famine in Asia Minor the herewith inclosed copy of a petition addressed to me to-day by the venerable Bishop (Pierre Tilkian) of the Armenian Catholic community at Broussa, who seeks, in the name of his community, any assistance to enable him to give succour to those who are dying of hunger at Biledjik Yénichekir, and the villages in the vicinity of the said towns.

While knowing the above to be true, and consenting to transmit to your Excellency a copy of the Right Reverend Bishop's memorial, I observed that the British or foreign Committees would of necessity be obliged to dedicate their resources to the districts for which the funds were subscribed, and that therefore I feared his appeal could hardly be entertained.

At the same time, I beg to observe that there are at Broussa numerous families who have had nothing to eat for three days in succession, notwithstanding that our Governor-General, Achmet Vefik Pasha, distributed 300 kilog. of wheat, cost of which he defrayed.

Very distressing accounts have reached me from the Cazas of Adrianaz, Harmandjik, and Touchudis, the inhabitants of which have for some time been living on herbs and roots; these being finished, they have, as a last resource, commenced eating acorns and the branches of vines. These they cut into small pieces, dry in the oven, and then ground into a sort of meal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. GILBERTSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 172.

Armenian Bishop to Vice-Consul Gilbertson.

Monsieur,

LES libéralités dont vous avez eu naguère la bonté de gratifier ma communauté, m'encouragent cette fois aussi à venir vous exposer par cette requête l'état de misère extrême auquel se trouve réduite la grande majorité des Arméniens Catholiques de Biledjik, Yenichékir, et de Broussa même, par suite du manque presque complet de céréales.

Il est bien inutile, M. le Consul, de donner ici beaucoup de détails sur un état de choses qui est déjà si notoire; peut-on lire aujourd'hui les dépêches et les rapports qui parviennent de l'Arménie et retenir ses larmes! Eh bien, Monsieur, je veux dire que la famine commence à sévir dans les susdites contrées de l'Asie-Mineure.

Je viens donc, M. le Consul, au nom de ma communauté, solliciter vos secours pour ces malheureux qui sont absolument sans subsistance, et qui pis est, ils manquent de tout secours, si petit qu'il soit; les rapports signalent déjà des cas de mort par suite de la faim dans les villages qui sont à proximité de Biledjik, Yenichékir, &c.

Je me recommande tout particulièrement à vos bons soins, M. le Consul, et je vous remercie d'avance de toutes sortes de secours dont vous voudrez gratifier ces malheureux victimes de la famine, sachant qu'ils sont exposés à une mort certaine sans la prompte arrivée de quelque secours.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) PIERRE TILKIAN,
Grecque Arménien Catholique de Broussa.

No. 173.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 477. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, May 2, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter addressed to me by Baker Pasha, who, as your Lordship is aware, is the President of a Commission appointed by the Sultan to inquire into, and report upon, the condition of a portion of His Majesty's Asiatic dominions. Your Lordship will, I think, read it with interest.

I availed myself of an opportunity when seeing the Sultan yesterday, to ask His Majesty whether he had read Baker Pasha's Reports. His Majesty replied that he was not aware that the Pasha had sent any. None had reached him. I expressed my surprise that such should be the case, as I was convinced that Baker Pasha had sent Reports to the Porte, if not to His Majesty himself, and I urged His Majesty to see them, in order that he might learn the opinion of a thoroughly honest and impartial man, who was desirous of doing his duty loyally to His Majesty and his Empire, as to the real condition of his Asiatic provinces, which I had every reason to believe was concealed from His Majesty.

His Majesty said that he would at once give orders that Baker Pasha's Reports should be brought to him.

I further urged His Majesty to give his special attention to the report from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia of his journey from Sivas to Constantinople, a translation of which, as I informed Lord Salisbury in my despatch No. 424 of the 16th ultimo, I have placed in His Majesty's hands. I had every reason to be persuaded, I said, from the high character and experience of Colonel Wilson, that His Majesty might place the fullest reliance upon his account of the state of the country he visited, and of the deplorable results of the maladministration that existed there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 173.

Baker Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
(Extract.) *Sivas, April 1880.*

WE arrived here this afternoon, and as the post is just leaving I can only write briefly. I was, unfortunately, laid up ill in bed when the last post passed us at

Kharpoot, and so lost that chance of sending you a letter. We were on our way to Bagdad, but at Djezireh a telegram came from Saïd Pasha requesting me to go to Sivas, and then to Erzeroum, so we had to retrace our steps. I came back by Nisibin, Midiad, Farkin, Hydeka, Kharpoot, and Malatia, to this place. We made an exhaustive examination of the Vilayet of Diarbekir. The result is very unsatisfactory. It is impossible to conceive the corruption, neglect, and ruin that reign everywhere. As I wrote you in a former letter, I can find no natural difficulties to account for this state of things. The people are extraordinarily quiet and peaceful. If brigandage exists, it is because the Government has no semblance of authority. The Valis and other officials in power look upon themselves as mere tax-collectors. They wring what they can out of the long-suffering population, but they do absolutely nothing for the material prosperity of the country. Roads, bridges, and Government buildings are everywhere falling into utter ruin. The unjustly-taxed villagers are turning nomads, and the settled population is decreasing daily. The really fair carriage roads made by Ismail Hakki Pasha between Maran, Diarbekir, Kharpoot, and on towards Malatia, has since he left been utterly neglected, and in two or three years, if nothing is done, will have disappeared. Since my Report on Aleppo was received, there has been a slight effort to stimulate public instruction by employing the funds derived from ruined mosques in aid of the Ruschdié schools. The result is very partial, and the order is resisted by the Muftis, who generally derive personal advantage from these funds. The American Missionary schools are doing great good. They work with great tact and energy, and deserve the highest praise. The gendarmerie in the Diarbekir Vilayet and the other districts we passed through is in the most utter disorder. The reported reorganization is a mere sham, and it will be impossible to do any good unless they accept the proposals that I have made to them, but as yet I have received no answer to my repeated telegrams to know whether that proposed organisation was accepted. The gendarmes at present are only feared by the honest part of the population. We passed through the famine-stricken districts, and I was able to get some slight measures carried out for their partial relief. But the apathy of the authorities is inconceivable. The Valis think only of the towns in which they themselves reside. The depreciation of the beshlik fell as a terrible blow on the already perishing people, and it has of course doubled their suffering and want. The outbreak at Malatia was interesting, for from careful inquiries on the spot, it appears to have been a perfectly spontaneous and unorganized ebullition of popular feeling against the injustice of the depreciation of the beshlik and the corruption of some of the local authorities. The Hodjas acted as peacemakers, and directly the Vali of Diarbekir accorded the suspension of the obnoxious authorities, perfect tranquillity was restored. We advised the immediate appointment of a new Mutessarif, and that Ferik Bey, the active and intelligent Inspector of Tribunals, should be sent to watch over the necessary re-settlement of the Courts, the Cadi and other officials having been suspended.

No. 174.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 24. Political.)

Beyrout, April 23, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul General Eldridge's despatch No. 16 of the 11th ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reporting on the trial of the officials connected with the recent frauds at Baalbec.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 29.)

Beyrout, April 23, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul General Eldridge's despatch No. 22 of the 11th ultimo, and to previous correspondence on the subject of fiscal frauds at Baalbec, I

have the honour to report to your Excellency that from information that has reached me, I am given to understand that the trial of the different officials implicated in the transaction took place at Damascus before the Medjliss Idaré in the presence of the Mutessarif, as President of the Court. The evidence for the prosecution was gone over by Mohamed Saïd Bey, the Chief of the Commission appointed to investigate these frauds, and the case was afterwards brought to a conclusion. There remained only the sentence to be drawn up by the President and members of the Court, giving the legal reasons for the conviction or acquittal of those on trial. This sentence, I am told, would have to be passed on to his Highness Midhat Pasha for execution or rejection. As these proceedings have taken place at Damascus, I have requested Mr. Vice-Consul Jago to report to me on the various facts that may come to his knowledge concerning them. I am, moreover, further informed that the officials connected with the rebate of the land tax, and the Judge of Baalbec, who took a prominent part in the affair, have since the trial been allowed to return to their posts. Meanwhile, I hear that the new Governor of Baalbec, Mahmood Bey el Yusef, has been giving much satisfaction by the vast improvement he has made in the administration of his district. Being a man of wealth, he does not depend on his salary for his expenditure; and the peasants and larger proprietors are pleased with him, as he tries to avoid billeting horsemen on their villages for taxes. He has likewise made the head men of the Blad Baalbec responsible for robberies, and other lawless acts, committed within the boundaries of their respective districts. Consequently the majority of the outlaws of Blad Baalbec, who have been accustomed to rob and murder, and to hold the district almost in a state of siege, have come in and submitted themselves to the Kaïmakam. In the meantime respectable guarantees have been given for their proper behaviour in the future, and they have returned to their villages promising henceforth to live as good members of society. Under the new Governor financial affairs have also greatly improved, and by his selection of faithful officials, he has managed to procure a considerable increase to the Treasury in the collection of the revenue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 175.

Captain Cooper to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 14.)

Junior United Service Club, London, S.W., May 13, 1880.

My Lord,

At a time when much attention is being drawn towards the distress in Western Asia, it may be of interest to Her Majesty's Government to know that according to private advices which I have lately received, the fear of famine is passing away in the neighbourhood of Marash (Aleppo Vilayet). Early in April heavy rains fell, and employment in the vineyards was enabling the poorer classes to gain money to buy food, which, with the dread of drought, had been rising to famine prices. The overflow of the Sihoon, near Adana, has taken place without doing much damage to the crops, and there is every prospect of a very good harvest.

2. Early in April a Russian employé arrived in Adana from Aleppo, and established himself in the house I had recently vacated. He is supposed to be engaged in the completion of a map of the district.

Nadji Ahif Effendi has taken up the duties as Acting Vali of the Adana Vilayet *vice* Zia Pasha, ordered to Broussa for the restoration of his health.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER, *Captain, 47th Regiment.*

No. 176.

Consul Biliotti to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 7. Political. Confidential.)

Trebizond, April 30, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that rumours of an impending emigration to Russia of part of the Christian population residing between Kerassond[a] and Samsoon have lately attracted the attention of the local authorities.

[a] Keresun, on north coast of Asia Minor, west of Trebizond.—P. C.

Recently, in conversation, the Armenian Bishop told me that his co-religionists at Tsarchamba* entertained the idea to remove to Russia, and that he had received orders from the Patriarch to proceed after Easter on the spot in order to divert them from their intention, which, he added, did not agree with the interests of their nation. However, the Bishop did not seem to consider that the intended emigration was imminent.

At the beginning of this week, having heard from a private source that a number of Greek families residing in the district of Ordoo† were making preparations of departure for the Caucasus, I applied to the Governor-General for correct information, and the following is the substance of his communication to me:—

The Kaimakam of Ordoo reported to him not long ago that the inhabitants of three Greek villages in his district having manifested the intention to leave the country, he had inquired from some of the natives as to the motives of their intended departure, and that they did not conceal from him that they were doing so at the instigation of the Russian Consular Agent at Kerassond, who had promised them money, lands, and other advantages in Russia.

A few days ago the Armenian Bishop, in an official note, informed the Pasha that owing to the vexations to which Christians were subjected, and to the expected arrival of Lazes, the inhabitants of several Christian villages in the vicinity of Ordoo had made up their mind to emigrate to Russia.

No precise mention being made of the nature of the grievances alluded to, the Pasha ordered two Commissioners, one Mussulman and one Armenian, to proceed at once, as they did on the 28th instant, on the spot to inquire into and report on the alleged vexations.

The same day, that is on the 28th, the Greek Archbishop presented to the Pasha a letter which he had received from his delegate at Kerassond, and worded in almost identical terms as the note of the Armenian Bishop, but stating besides that 300 Greek families had repaired from the villages to the sea-shore for emigration to Russia.

The Pasha, together with the Archbishop, proceeded at once to the telegraph office and called at the office of Kerassond, for explanations, the Kaimakam and other Turkish functionaries, together with the Archbishop's delegate.

The Turkish officers stated that there were rumours of emigration, but that there was no foundation in the statement that 300 families were in the town for embarkation, and that only two had applied for passports. They made no mention of Russian underhand dealings. The delegate of the Greek Archbishop asked for one or two hours to have his answer written out in Turkish, but hitherto no reply came.

The Greek Archbishop wonders at the communication which he has received from Kerassond, for not later than a month ago he was there himself, and the Greeks in that town, as well as at Tireboli, which he also visited, did not complain of vexations.

This circumstance induces Sirri Pasha to believe that the movement for emigration has been set on foot by foreign influence, and he is strengthened in his conviction by the fact that the Russian Consular Agent at Kerassond called here twice within the last few months; that, since, the Russian Consul at Trebizond made himself a flying visit at Kerassond; that the Russian Chancellier, on his way to Constantinople a month ago, stopped a week at Samsoon, and that ten or twelve days since the son of the Consular Agent at Kerassond came here, and returned the same day to that town after a long interview with the Consul.

The Pasha is, moreover, inclined to believe that the Armenian Bishop is an instrument used by the Russians in this instance, and he bases his opinion on the singular fact that, while the Christians who are said to be making preparations to depart from Ordoo are Greeks, the case should have been brought to his notice by the Armenian Bishop, without the latter even communicating with his Greek colleague. The Governor-General does not suspect the Greek Archbishop to be a party in the presumed plot.

Sirri Pasha wants, therefore, to find out the details of the grievances of which the Christians at Ordoo and Kerassond complain in general terms, and also whether they refer to past or present vexations, or to the fear they entertain for the future, owing to the expected arrival of Lazes.

It is with this view that he has forwarded the two above-mentioned Commissioners, and has tried to obtain information by wire. He has ordered the Kaimakam of Kerassond to proceed here by first steamer for further explanations, and should he

* On north coast, half-way between Keresun and Samsoon.—P. C.
† Half-way between Trebizond and Samsoon.—P. C.

fail to obtain satisfactory information, or should the case appear to him of sufficient importance, he intends, after Easter, to proceed himself on the spot accompanied by the Greek Archbishop, and also perhaps by the Armenian Bishop. I am not prepared to say how far the inference drawn by the Governor-General with regard to Russian underhand dealings is founded in this case, but I know from a letter written a few months ago from Kars to my Greek colleague, that while the Russian Government seem disposed to encourage Greek emigration to Russia they try, as they did during the occupation of Erzeroum, to prevent Armenians from leaving this country. Towards the end of last summer, ten delegates were sent from Gumushané to Kars to arrange for the immigration to Russia of 1,000 Greek families, and promises were made to them similar to those which are said to be held out to the Greeks of Ordoo; but to my knowledge the expected general emigration from Gumushané has not yet taken place.

The aim of Russia may be to reduce the Greek element in this province in order, perhaps, to claim Armenia, and its bordering districts, for the Armenians (which in my humble opinion means for herself), when she may think that the convenient time has arrived to eject from this quarter the bulk of the Mussulman population. However, as, on 1,000,000 of souls which form the population of this province, there are hardly 180,000 Christians, of whom not above 40,000 are Armenians, the task may be considered as hopeless.

But however this may be, I am inclined to believe that in the present instance, as the emigration from Batoum of the Lazes (whom I am told Russia is uselessly striving to induce to remain in their native country) excites her spite, she tries to atone the impression produced by a simultaneous immigration of Christians. Besides this motive, Russia will require colonists, whom it is hardly possible to recruit in other Russian provinces for the districts that will be depopulated by the departure of the Lazes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 177.

Major Trotter to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 12. Political.)

Diarbekir, April 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I REGRET that I can report no improvement in the general state of the country.

From Sert (which since the beginning of the current month has formed a portion of the new Vilayet of Bitlis) come most distressing reports.* I have no detailed information, but it appears that the supply of grain is almost wholly exhausted; it is impossible to obtain grain in sufficient quantities elsewhere, and the inhabitants have nothing left to do but to fly or starve.

From Mardin I learn, on good authority, that several people have died in the streets from want of nourishment. The crowds frequenting the bakers' shops are so dense that many persons with money in their hands have, at the end of the day, been unable to buy bread. The Christians are reported, in this respect, to suffer more than the Mahommedans, with whom the former are afraid to jostle. If people with money are unable to buy bread, the state of those who have no money, and they are legion, may be better imagined than described.

In the city of Diarbekir, one day last week, three persons died in the streets, but as I have not heard of any similar cases since, I conclude that they were refugees from the eastern districts, who arrived in an exceptional state of emaciation. The streets are crowded with hundreds of beggars whose piteous cries and moans both day and night render the lives of the residents a most painful one.

I am still giving bi-weekly rations of soup to 3,000 persons, besides giving weekly supplies of wheat and rice for soup to the poor in some of the most necessitous of the surrounding villages. I regret to say that in consequence of his work among the crowded poor, my Dragoman, Mr. Sévim, a young man from Constantinople, lies in my house at this moment dangerously ill with typhoid fever.

* See Captain Clayton's Report from Bitlis of the 30th March (Inclosure 4 in Sir A. H. Layard's No. 505): "There was a good deal of distress near Bitlis, but not so bad as at Van and Hakkiari."—P. C.

From Djezireh I am informed that the distress was somewhat mitigated by the arrival of supplies by raft from Diarbekir, but there is still, and will be, much suffering. From Midyad I believe half the inhabitants have already fled elsewhere. From other parts of the vilayet come nothing but tales of suffering and woe.

The weather has improved; rain has fallen, and the prospects of the coming harvest are considered good, but owing to the late spring it will not be reaped till June at the earliest.

The political situation is much the same; trade generally at a standstill; no one having confidence in the Government or in the future. Many of the roads are unsafe, except to strong and well-armed caravans. Several highway robberies, with murder, have been reported, with details of which it is unnecessary to trouble your Lordship.

In Deyrik (45 miles south of Diarbekir) 500 sheep have been plundered and carried off by the Kurds from Mazi Tagh, and at Ainschat, five hours from Deyrik, 200 sheep have been carried off by a party of robbers from Matinan.

The people concerned in the recent murders and plunders at Mardin, some fifty in number, have been arrested through the well-directed exertions of Ferid Bey, our energetic Inspector of Justice, and the Colonel of zaptiehs, who were sent there specially to restore order. Some of the number have turned King's evidence, and there is no doubt as to the actual murderers having been discovered. A company of infantry was sent from Diarbekir to escort the prisoners here for trial, and it is possible that had the latter been sent here, justice would, through the exertions of Ferid Bey, have been meted out to them. But the two troops of cavalry which were at Mardin maintaining order have been sent to suppress disturbances in Malatia, and so the infantry sent from here must be left for the protection of Mardin, where the Christian inhabitants have been in a panic, not absolutely without good reason, ever since the tragical occurrence which was reported in a former despatch. It is pretty certain that if the prisoners be left without a strong guard, an attempt at rescue will be made by their friends. Should such an attempt be successfully made, it is probable that it would be followed by the sack and plunder of the city of Mardin.

An insufficient detachment of mounted police, under a smart officer, has been sent to Deyrik to prevent, if possible, further disorders in that neighbourhood.

There have been serious disturbances in the town of Malatia, independent of the chronic fighting which has been going on in the district for several weeks past amongst different Kurdish tribes. The demonstration was directed against the Acting Governor and other officials. The immediate exciting cause was the issue of the obnoxious order depreciating the beshlik currency. The grain market was plundered, the windows of the Governor's house smashed, and the ringleaders telegraphed their complaints to the Governor-General, menacing the local officials if their complaints were not listened to. The Vali bowed to the storm, dismissed the obnoxious Acting Mutessarif and some members of the Medjliss, and telegraphed for troops from Kharpoot and Sivas. There are now six troops of cavalry at Malatia from those places and from Mardin. Infantry is wanted, but there is none to spare. Baker and Said Pashas, who were at Kharpoot, were, I understand, ordered by the Porte to proceed to Malatia and investigate matters. Baker Pasha left Malatia a day or two ago for Sivas, but I have no information as to what action he took at the former place.

Ferid Bey and the Alai Bey (Colonel of zaptiehs), the only two decently good officials we have in the vilayet, leave for Malatia in a day or two, the latter as Acting Mutessarif. In their absence it is probable that in Diarbekir and Mardin affairs will, under our incapable Governor, go from bad to worse.

To-day news has been received of contemplated enormous reductions of the salaries of the civil employés throughout the Empire. The telegraph employés have struck work, and it is impossible to send or receive telegraphic messages.

Captain Clayton writes to me from Bitlis, dated the 30th March, that, just before he left Van, he heard, on good authority, that Sheikh Abeyd Ullah is holding large meetings of Kurdish Chiefs, and that all indications point to preparations for a fresh rising in the summer. Should this anticipation be realized, the Turkish Government will with difficulty weather the storm, as general dissatisfaction exists everywhere.

In the Deyrsin, south of Erzinglan, it is evident that great disaffection exists, in spite of the exertions of Dervish Pasha and his thirty battalions of soldiers last summer. This is proved by the fact that, during the winter, a party of soldiers was enticed into visiting a mountain village,* where they were set upon by the Deyrsinlis and eight of their number killed, an incident which I did not report when I first heard it several weeks ago, as it then wanted the confirmation which it has since received.

* Near Kizil-Kilissa.

If circumstances permit, I may perhaps shortly pay a visit to Malatia to see and report upon the state of affairs there, and, as I am on friendly terms with both Férid Bey and the new Mutessarif, it is possible that my presence and advice may be productive of good.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 177.

TABULAR Statement on Famine in Mosul District, received by me from Rev. Andrus, American missionary, just as the mail is closing.

I forward it in original, for Lord Salisbury's information, there being no time to make a copy.

Mr. Andrus has just been travelling from Bagdad to Mosul. The Tables (bearing date the 30th March) appear to have been carefully prepared, and bear on their face the impress of truth.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER, *Major, R.E.*,
Her Majesty's Consul for Kurdistan.

Diarbekir, April 17, 1880.

TABULAR Statement on Famine in Mosul District.

Name of Places.	Number of Houses (approximately).	Percentage of loss in Sheep.	Percentage of loss in Cattle.	Percentage of loss in Draught Animals.	Number of persons in Starving condition (approximately).	Whole Mule of the Statistics.	Number of deaths from Starvation.	Amount and kind of Assistance rendered.	By whom rendered.	Price of Wheat.	Bread per 1 Constantinople oke.	Amount of Grain sown.	Source of the Information.
1. Derne Zeir	..	Half in the village	Three-fourths in the village	Three-fourths in the village	..	..	..	..	..	Dia Arab. ..	Piastres. ..	..	Brother of Hadji Zia-jun of Mardin, whom I knew in Baghdad. Heard from Mosul people.
2. Nehrem	..	Police Station	Half in the district	Half in the district	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	Usual ..	Public employment at the stations, and Mosul cities.
3. Kara Teppa	..	160	Seven-eighths	Two-thirds	Few only remaining	3 or 4 daily	5 or 10	Rice and dates from Baghdad	Government ..	31	..	Ditto ..	Mudir.
4. Salahea (Kurds)	..	500	Two-thirds ..	Three-fourths ..	300 to 1,000	20 to 100	20 to 100	100 okes bread each day for 20 days	Private subscription of officials and others	31	..	Less than usual	Kalmakam and Colonel of soldiers.
5. Tess Kupreen	..	200	Half ..	Two-thirds ..	Somewhat few	..	10	Sale of Government wheat	Mudir ..	34	..	Ditto ..	Mudir.
6. Tenek ..	..	150	Two-thirds ..	Three-fourths ..	100	3 to 5 daily	60	None to nothing	..	34	..	Ditto ..	Captain of artillery, and a Jew.
7. Berkieh— Moslems .. Jews .. Christians ..	.. .. ..	2,100 600 100	Almost none left	Nine-tenths ..	6,400+	20 to 110 last 20 days	1,300+	For a month wheat soup	Money collected from citizens	72	..	Ditto ..	Several qualified persons.
		1,800											
8. Akrem Kojair— Moslems .. Jews ..	.. ..	250 50	Three-fourths ages, seven-eighths half-fatten	Nineteen-twentieths	200+	4 to 7 daily	120+	Nearly to nothing	..	56	48	Ditto ..	Captain of Rediff and Mamelukes.
		300											
9. Ashmeh Moslems .. Jews ..	.. ..	1,800 200	Nineteen-twentieths	Ditto ..	300	10 to 20 daily	1,500+	10,000 okes wheat bread	Government. Mainly private means	56 to 75	3	Ditto, but of good quality	Kaimakam, and a first-class merchant.
10. Mosul ..	..	..	Four-fifths ..	Ditto ..	1,000+	5 to 15 daily	..	Money, wheat, bread, soup	Government, Consuls, mission-aries, private individuals	6 to 8	8	..	Many competent persons.

Additional Remarks connected with the above Places.

1. During the winter there were thirteen days of snowy weather, a thing unprecedented to far as known to the "oldest inhabitant." One man had only 30 out of 360 camels left him; another had only 10 out of 500 sheep left him. These were, of course, exceptional.

2. A barley-growing district. The white and large-bearded only is raised, as the dark, short-bearded variety is eaten by the wild beasts.

3. Many families fled to Baghdad and to Mendilieh on Desht, three days' journey.

4. Most of poor from surrounding districts, and mainly Kurds. Cadi brutally murdered some three weeks ago as he was going to mosque. Kalmakamlik with two Mudirs (Kara Teppa and Four Khoormaul), fifty villages, with but small arrear of taxes due to Government. Has sixty mounted and thirty unmounted zaptiehs, obtaining six months' pay and three months' rations. Kalmakamlik total indebtedness to the people thereof, P.T. 4,500 l.

5. Ugly stream here, which with hard rain rises suddenly. Eight from a party of fifteen newly drafted men perished from exposure and drowning in crossing it. A salt spring, which is allowed to yield only 200,000 okes.

6. Four dead bodies in the village (March 15) three and four days old, from starvation. Threatened to report the Captain if they were not buried that day. A drafted man, through hunger not being able to walk, was threatened with having his ears cut off if he did not walk.

7. A disease, famine, and cold, all united to destroy sheep, cattle, &c. Both wheat and bread with difficulty procured. No sugar in market, and cigarette paper supply wholly exhausted. Dates 6½ piastres per Constantinople oke. More than 1,000 houses pulled down to furnish kindling wood, as well as owners with a little money to procure food. Silver, 1 silver piastres per 1½ drahms; gold at proportional rate; copper (worked) 15 piastres per Constantinople oke! People almost universally resorted to chewing gum, in order, as they think, to prevent feeling pangs of hunger.

8. Seven 20 piastres per Constantinople oke. Although a wheat-shipping centre, none found; and Redif Captain, with money in hand, unable to get for his soldiers. Lower price bread accounted for as not being purely wheat. Barley found at 5 piastres per oke; straw there is none. Rise of stream brought up fish, which furnish some relief for the famishing. Among thirty mounted zaptiehs only two have horses left.

9. Government looking after twenty-five orphans left by famine. Markets closed on account of the Decree reducing value of the Beshlik currency. Dysentery prevalent among the famine-stricken ones. More than 1,000 Martini-Peabody rifles in hands of Kurds; zaptiehs, being poorly armed, not able to cope with them. A cartridge received from Persia, and for sale, that bursts the Martini-Peabody rifle from end to end. Caravan robbed yesterday on road between Nov. 8 and 9 (March 20).

10. The Government has sent some thousands of poor by raft to Baghdad, probably to be rid of caring for them. These, with those who have gone on their own responsibility, amount to more than 5,000, mostly Moslems.

A. N. ARNAOS.

Mosul, March 30, 1880.

No. 178.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 489. Confidential.)

Therapia, May 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship an extract from a letter received from a gentleman in the confidence of Midhat Pasha, respecting the condition of affairs in Syria.

I beg to call your Lordship's attention to the concluding paragraph of this letter, in which allusion is made to the possible existence of secret Societies, having in view the autonomy of the province.

This has recently been alluded to by Mr. Jago in his despatches to your Lordship's predecessor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 178.

Varsif Effendi Clician to Mr. Nicolson.

(Privé.)
(Extrait.)

Damascus, April 21, 1880.

SI j'ai tardé à vous écrire, c'est que j'étais occupé à Beyrouth de certaines affaires assez épineuses que j'ai pu mener à bonne fin, et rentrer à Damas, où j'ai trouvé le Pacha très-abattu, et cela à la suite de toutes les nouvelles les plus décourageantes provenant de Constantinople.

1. Demandes incessantes d'envoi d'argent à Constantinople.
2. Ordre d'avoir à doubler le verghi.
3. Nouvelle réduction des appointements des employés.
4. A ne rien payer aux employés des encaissements de la nouvelle année.
5. Ne recevoir jamais de réponses à toutes les demandes urgentes adressées par le vali aux Ministres.

A la première demande son Altesse fit connaître le budget, qui présente un fort déficit, et ajouta qu'elle ne pourrait malgré toute sa bonne volonté envoyer un sou.

Pour la seconde mesure, une protestation de la part des habitants refusant de payer le double verghi, ce qui occasionne un trouble dans l'esprit de la population. (Si le temps me permettra je vous enverrai une copie.)

Quant à la troisième et quatrième mesure, l'indignation est arrivée à son apogée. Les employés du télégraphe se sont mis en grève pendant deux à trois jours, et ce n'est que hier qu'ils ouvrirent les bureaux, grâce à une dépêche expédiée de Constantinople les rassurant que leurs appointements ne seront pas rognés. Cet état de choses non-seulement est pitoyable et ruineux pour le pays et le commerce, et les habitants en général, mais pourra exciter et susciter de graves conséquences au Gouvernement à la plus petite mauvaise impulsion que quelques turbulents peuvent donner à cette population déjà fatiguée des souffrances et des ignominies de la capitale. Pour preuve de ce que j'avance là, je vous cite le fait de trois officiers de l'armée régulière qu'on a pu arrêter en voulant se pendre et dont l'un est mort. Ce fait vous démontre que le désespoir et la misère peuvent nous mener loin.

Une fois cette désastreuse situation connue et probablement générale dans toutes les provinces de l'Empire, l'argument le plus clair résultant de cette gêne générale, de ce malaise qui mine les populations, et de ce calme déplaisant, peut se définir par ces deux mots : éclat et tempête à nos portes.

D'un autre côté la concussion prends des proportions énormes parmi les employés affamés. Ainsi avant-hier a fini le jugement des trois employés supérieurs du Hauran, accusés de vols et de détournements de certaines sommes. Le Pacha a saisi cette occasion pour les faire juger publiquement, et ce n'est que grâce à sa présence que leur culpabilité fût découverte, car s'il aurait dépendu du Grand Conseil, ils auraient été trouvés innocents et absous. Mais le Pacha investiga la chose profondément, condamna le premier, qui est Mutessarif, à être renvoyé et à ne plus occuper une place dans le Gouvernement. Les deux autres, c'est-à-dire le Caïmacam et le Caissier d'Agelona, dont la culpabilité était flagrante, à trois ans d'exil et un double remboursement des sommes soustraites aux particuliers et au détriment du Gouvernement.

L'affaire Baalbeck continue toujours à préoccuper les Juges très-sérieusement, et elle serait déjà terminée, mais des preuves suffisantes n'ayant pu encore être produites, on ne peut les condamner. En attendant, le Pacha ne manqua pas de destituer le Caïmacam et de révoquer de ses fonctions le Directeur de "l'Emlak" (Mumeiz Effendi).

Décidément, avec la tournure grave que prends actuellement la situation, avec l'insouciance et l'incapacité de nos Gouvernants, avec la ferme décision de maintenir le Pacha pieds et poings liés, avec la réduction ridicule des salaires pouvant à peine suffire à apaiser la faim, vous devez bien comprendre que son Altesse est fermement décidée à donner sa démission le 20 Mai au plus tard, et la soutenir très-énergiquement, et cela, il est vrai, à son plus grand regret.

Voilà un exemple de ce que nous touchons comme appointements. Le Directeur Politique recevait 7,500 piastres par mois, aujourd'hui je reçois 2,000 piastres. Ce fait seul doit vous prouver qu'il est impossible d'exiger que les employés travaillent honnêtement et consciencieusement, et vous ne devriez pas être surpris en apprenant que la concussion augmente au lieu de diminuer.

Je ne dois pas vous cacher que depuis quelque temps je trouve que le language, les allures, et la manière de raisonner des personnes que je fréquente, tant dans le monde officiel que parmi les différentes classes, a pris une tournure assez accentuée d'idées avancées dans la voie du libératisme et surtout de nationalité, et je remarque même qu'une certaine animosité existe contre le militarisme et ses conséquences. Je pense à supposer que des Sociétés Secrètes cherchent à inculquer au peuple des idées d'indépendance et de nationalité ; je cherche à découvrir et savoir me mettre au courant de cette espèce d'affiliation, qui, d'après moi, doit exister.

No. 179.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 197. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 11, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram to your Lordship No. 224 of this day's date, Colonel Wilson informs me that, as far as he can ascertain, the appointment of foreign Financial Inspectors in Asia Minor has been a farce from beginning to end ; that the Inspectors have done nothing except draw large salaries from the chests of the sandjaks and vilayets, which were ill able to bear the additional strain on their resources; that every one knew beforehand that there were gross frauds in the collection of the revenue, to prove which a highly-paid staff was unnecessary; and that beyond examination of accounts, as far as he knows, the powers of the Inspectors are very limited.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 180.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 502.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 11, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed by Vice-Consul Everett to Her Majesty's Consul in Kurdistan, relating to the dismissal of Mehemet Ali Bey, the Kaïmakam of Keghi, and the non-fulfilment of the promises repeatedly given to me by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the legal proceedings against the Beys of that district for robbing and ill-treating its Christian inhabitants should be brought to an immediate and satisfactory conclusion, and that those who were found guilty of the acts of which they are accused should be punished. Every possible means appear to have been used in this instance to protect the Beys, to impede their trial, and to prevent justice being done.

I have communicated the substance of Captain Everett's despatch to Sawas Pasha, and have not concealed from his Excellency that it will be my very painful duty to represent to Her Majesty's Government that the conduct of the Porte in this and other cases can only be viewed as a deliberate attempt to encourage the oppression and ill-treatment to which the Sultan's Christian subjects are exposed in Armenia. I have also called his special attention to the grave fact that, in the case of the Keghi Beys, the Russian Consul at Erzeroum is acting cordially with the British Vice-Consul in protesting against the conduct of the Turkish authorities, and in denouncing the injustice and oppression to which the Christians of Keghi are subjected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 180.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 14. Political.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, April 30, 1880.*

ON the 28th instant I telegraphed to you that a successor to Mehemet Ali Bey, the Kaïmakam of Keghi, had arrived at Trebizond ; he has since arrived here.

I have already informed you in my despatches Nos. 3, 4, and 5, Political, of 1879, and Nos. 9 and 11, Political, of this year, of my suspicions as to the formation of a conspiracy to remove this excellent officer from his post, and also that a certain Suleiman of Terjan was temporarily appointed to perform the duties of Kaïmakam during his examination here, Suleiman being subsequently removed on my representing to the Government his incapacity.

According to trustworthy information I have received, it appears that at the last examination of Mehemet Ali Bey the Vali demanded from the Idaré Medjliss whether he was worthy of dismissal, when all the members answered in the negative ; he was nevertheless retained here, on the pretext that it was necessary for him to be present at the examination of the Treasurer of the district of Keghi, accused of corruption.

A month has passed since that examination, during which I have persuaded Mehemet Ali Bey to await patiently the conclusion of the examination of the Treasurer, after which there could be no further excuse for his detention. But on Monday last the Vali, feigning ignorance of the transaction, informed me that a new Kaïmakam had been sent from Constantinople.

I immediately conferred with the Russian Consul-General, of whose co-operation in this matter I was previously assured, and we decided that the time was come to make a protest against this unjust action.

I accordingly wrote a letter to the Vali, of which I inclose a copy, together with the answer. The Russian Consul-General informs me that he sent his Dragoman with

a note, in which he expressed his strong disapprobation of the course which was being taken, and his resolution to report the matter immediately to his Government.

I would wish you to observe that the Vali's answer omits altogether to give me any information on the crime of which Mehemet Ali Bey is supposed to be guilty, and seems to infer that protestations on my part cannot affect the question at issue.

I shall await instructions before proceeding any further in this matter officially.

I beg to inform you that no progress whatever is made with the Keghi cases, and that no fresh instructions have been received from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 180.

Captain Everett to the Governor-General of Erzeroum.

Erzeroum, April 28, 1880.

Excellency,

FROM information received from you the day before yesterday, it would appear that a successor has been appointed to the Kaïmakamlik of the district of Keghi.

Seeing how universally Mehemet Ali Bey is respected, and indeed beloved, for his justice and impartiality by all classes in his district, as well as for his good government and talent for administration, I am at a loss to understand the reasons which induce the Government to dispense with the services of so efficient an officer.

I shall therefore be obliged to your Excellency if you will inform me, in precise terms, of the nature of the offence which Mehemet Ali Bey is supposed to be guilty of, and I also beg most respectfully to inform you that until such time as it can be clearly proved that Mehemet Ali Bey is guilty of a crime which necessitates his dismissal, I shall continue to protest, as in fact I do now, against the removal of an officer who ranks among the best and the most efficient of those serving His Majesty the Sultan in this country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 180.

The Governor-General of Erzeroum to Captain Everett.

(Translation.)

WE have received and read your Excellency's letter of the $\frac{15}{27}$th April which informed us that you will continue to protest against the removal of Mehemet Ali Bey. This affair being subject to the laws and regulations of the Government, the conduct of the Government will frame itself in accordance with the laws and the commands which it may receive from its superiors and according to the result of the affair. Therefore there is no need to protest.

I have, &c.

April 28, 1880.

No. 181.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 504.)

Constantinople, May 11, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 387 of the 6th ultimo, respecting the Binns case, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Angora on the subject of Husni Effendi, the Defterdar of that place, whose removal I am still promised by Sawas Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 181.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 72.)

Angora, May 1, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to inform your Excellency of my safe arrival here on Wednesday last, the 28th instant.

Having had a long interview with the Vali, Khourchid Pasha, yesterday, I judged it advisable to send you the following telegram:—

"Notwithstanding Sawas Pasha's promise, Defterdar still in power. Vali, Khourchid Pasha, earnestly desires to have another opportunity of completing evidence necessary to convict him of dishonesty and insulting conduct."

I found to my surprise that the Governor-General's ideas with regard to the conduct of Husni Effendi have undergone a complete change. Although by no means a model of upright government himself, he can no longer endure, he asserts, the dishonesty, inaccuracy, and confusion that characterizes the administration of Husni Effendi's department. Instead of doing his utmost officially to shield the inculpated official and to thwart inquiry into his conduct, he is now anxious to expose him, and is now ready to supply the missing links in the evidence already forwarded to your Excellency through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He is now anxious that a formal inquiry should be addressed to him through the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and should your Excellency cause this to be done you may rest assured that the whole truth with regard to Mr. Binns' complaint about the Defterdar's language and conduct will be brought to light.

I regret to have to report that a somewhat serious collision between zaptiehs and the populace occurred here yesterday afternoon. The disturbance originated in an ordinary pot-house quarrel, but the cry being raised that the Christians were killing a Turk, great excitement ensued; swords were drawn on one side and sticks and stones made ready on the other. Some Europeans arrived in time to appease the angry crowd, and induced the zaptiehs to withdraw, although not before several of the populace had been rather severely wounded.

I inclose the usual copies of this despatch, and also duplicate of the despatch sent your Excellency from Konieh.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 182.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 505.)

Constantinople, May 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at Erzeroum and Van, on subjects of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 182.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 4. Commercial.)

Erzeroum, April 30, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to inclose you the answer received from the Vali to my letter on the supply of seed for the districts of Passin, Alashgueid, and Bayazid, of which I forwarded you a copy with my despatch No. 2, Commercial, of the 10th instant. As you will observe, it evades the question altogether.

Notwithstanding the order from Constantinople (mentioned in my despatch No. 3, Commercial) to distribute 500 somars of wheat in the Passin plain, it has not been carried out; meanwhile the sowing season is rapidly passing away.

On Monday last I interviewed the Vali on the subject of the twenty-six villages in the Erzeroum plain who were demanding seed, and he promised to give them, if possible, 100 somars, but they have not been given, and I understand that the representatives of the villages have this day telegraphed to Constantinople.

The state of things is getting daily worse. Now that the roads are opening, numbers of famished families are making their appearance from the districts.

Since buying grain and transporting it is, from the expense, out of the question, and to go down with money only into the districts is useless, I am obliged to content myself with placing the people on my relief list here. The Armenians find the same difficulty, for although they have received plenty of money they have not as yet been able to spend any.

I have no news whatever from Alashguerd and Bayazid, but Colonel Stuart, of the 5th Punjaub Infantry, who is leaving here for Tehran vid these districts, has kindly offered to send me back a report of the true state of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 182.

The Governor-General of Erzeroum to Captain Everett.

(Translation.)

WE received your Excellency's letter of the 16th April. The Medjliss Idaré read it. The whole of the letter being written on the question of seed which is required in some places in the Vilayet of Erzeroum, we beg to inform you that the Government and the Idaré Medjliss never at any time relax their efforts in this direction, this being a duty to the Government.

We have, &c.

April 16, 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 182.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 3. Commercial.)

Sir, *Bitlis, March* 30, 1880.

IN accordance with the intention expressed in my despatch No. 10, Political, of the 17th instant I started from Van on the 20th March with Mr. Scott, the American missionary, in his small steam-boat, and after having been delayed by storms, reached this place on the 27th.

Before I left Van the Imperial Commissioners called my attention to the following matter:—

The principal grain-producing districts of the old Vilayet of Van, viz., Mush, Boulanyik, and Akhlat, have been separated from it under the new arrangement, and now form part of the Vilayet of Bitlis. The Commissioners desired to make use of some of the surplus produce of those districts to supply the wants of Van and Hakkiari, and made the following calculation:—

	Constantinople Kilés.
Produce of tithe for last year for Bitlis and Mush Sandjaks (from official Returns)	89,021
Deduct expenditure to present time	11,275
Remaining in store	77,746
Deduct estimated requirements of Mush and Bitlis to next harvest ..	19,000
Surplus	58,746

Of this surplus they hoped to obtain at least half for Van and Hakkiari, where the need was most pressing, as they had remaining in the Government stores only twenty days' provisions. They therefore telegraphed to the Vali of Bitlis requesting him to send them some 30,000 kilés, but he replied that he had no more than was necessary for his own vilayet, and could send none. The Commissioners, therefore, begged me to examine into the matter. I therefore, on my arrival here, broached the question to the Vali, and he said that the calculations of the Commissioners were erroneous; that instead of there being a surplus of 50,000 kilés in the Government magazines there were only 15,000 kilés in them in all, and that therefore he could not spare any, and that he had sent word to the Commissioners that they were at liberty to send an agent to examine the magazines, and if he found more than 15,000 kilés he could take the surplus. I shall recommend the Commissioners to accept this offer, and send some one they can trust, as there must have been some malpractices to account for the difference between the two calculations. At the same time, I said to the Vali that the state of Van was most critical, and that even if he had not enough to last until next harvest yet he ought to send some corn to Van, as a temporary loan at all events, to enable the time to be tided over till the roads open and supplies can be obtained from a greater distance, or absolute starvation will stare half the

population of Van in the face in a fortnight's time. He promised to do what he could.

I was very glad to receive, since my arrival here, a telegram from the Ambassador, forwarded from Van, to the effect that an additional 300*l.* was at my disposal for the distressed. I hope to obtain some corn from this side of the lake to take with me back to Van, and I have sent also to endeavour to obtain a supply from across the Persian frontier for the Bashkala district, as I hear it can be obtained in those parts. I intend to start to-morrow on my return to Van. There is a good deal of distress in this neighbourhood, but it is not so bad as in Van and Hakkiari.

The repudiation of the beshlik and métallique currency is causing great distress and disturbance of trade, as there is a great quantity in this part of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 183.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 506.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van on the subject of the proceedings of Circassians in the neighbourhood of Bitlis, and the state of the country in general. I have communicated the substance of this despatch to the Sublime Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 183.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 11. Political.)

Sir, *Bitlis, March* 30, 1880.

SINCE arriving here I have heard great complaints of the recently-appointed Kaïmakam of Boulanyk. In that district there have been settled a number of families of Circassian refugees, and two months ago the former Kaïmakam was removed, and a Circassian appointed in his place. The Circassians are distributed among the Christian villages, and live upon the villagers, robbing, ill-treating, and abusing them. The Kaïmakam, instead of repressing this, has been riding round with a retinue of nearly 100 Circassian horsemen, levying contributions from the Armenians, threatening and beating them. His men also sought to murder the Bishop because he had complained of the Circassians, but he managed to escape. On the Kaïmakam's first arrival at Gop, the principal village, he turned the American missionaries' helper and his family out of their house into the street, and occupied the house, striking the man when he remonstrated, although he was distinctly told that the house belonged to the Americans. After remaining in it for two or three days, he gave it up again. The former Kaïmakam is well spoken of.

I spoke to the Vali about the matter to-day. He said he had heard these complaints, and had written to the Mutessarif of Mush to examine into the matter, but that he was not answerable for the appointment, which he said had been made by the Reform Commissioners on the advice of the Vali of Van. He further said that he was writing to Constantinople to recommend that all Kaïmakams should be sent thence, instead of being named from local families. I hope means may be found to remove the delinquent; but it is very disheartening to find that notoriously bad men like the Kaïmakams of Gevver and Julumerik are maintained in their positions and supported, while men who try to do right, like the former Kaïmakam of Gevver, whom I mentioned in my despatch No. 8, Political, of the 10th September, 1879, and the late Kaïmakam of Boulanyk, are removed, to be replaced by such men as have succeeded them.

Some men have come to see me from Berwari, in the Sandjak of Sert, saying that they are in great fear of the Kurds that surround them. Formerly a battalion was stationed among them, who kept the Kurds in some order, but they have lately been removed, and the Kurds are threatening them with extermination. They have petitioned the Vali to appoint a Kaïmakam with a sufficient force to keep order, instead of the Mudir, with only a few zaptiehs, who is now there. The Vali told me

to-day he had written to the Mutessarif of Sert to take what steps appeared to him necessary.

Just before I left Van I heard from the Commissioners that Sheikh Obeyd Ullah is gathering Chiefs to him, and holding large meetings, and that all indications point to preparations for a fresh rising in the summer, though Samih Pasha continues to send reassuring reports, and to talk of the Sheikh's intention to visit Constantinople or make a pilgrimage to Mecca.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 183*.

Earl Granville to Captain Cooper.

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 18, 1880.

I HAVE received a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia bearing testimony to the able manner in which you have performed the duties of your Vice-Consulate, and I take this opportunity of expressing to you my thanks for the reports which have been received from you in this Department, and for the valuable services which you have rendered to Her Majesty's Government while carrying out your official duties as Her Majesty's Vice-Consul in Anatolia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 184.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 325.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 20, 1880.

I HAVE to request that your Excellency will convey to Captain Everett, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum, the approval of Her Majesty's Government of the letter which he addressed to the Vali of Erzeroum on the subject of the spring sowing in that vilayet, and which formed the inclosure in your Excellency's despatch No. 470 of the 28th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 185.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 328.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 20, 1880.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 477, Confidential, of the 2nd instant, inclosing an extract of a private letter from Baker Pasha, and reporting a conversation which you had with the Sultan on the subject of the condition of the Asiatic provinces of Turkey.

I have to state to you, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government approve the language employed by your Excellency in this interview, as reported in your above-mentioned despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 186.

Memorandum by Lord Tenterden on the Distress in Asiatic Turkey.

MR. GOSCHEN has asked me to put together, for the information of the Cabinet, some of the accounts received from Her Majesty's Consular officers showing the pitiable condition of the population, Christian and Mussulman, throughout extensive districts of Asiatic Turkey.

The districts in which famine and destitution almost amounting to famine prevail, are Bayazid, Van, parts of the Vilayets of Erzeroum, Diarbekir, Sivas, Mossul, Adalia, and Aleppo.

Bayazid.

Captain Everett, in his recent inspection tour in the Bayazid Sandjak, had written to inform me of the pitiable state of its inhabitants, and of the urgent need there was of immediate steps being taken to provide grain for sowing in many parts of the district. I have done all that lies in my power to impress both on the Vali Pasha and on the new Mutessarif the extreme importance of steps being at once taken to remedy the existing deficiency of grain by abstaining from taking the tithes in kind in some instances, by remitting them altogether in others, and in importing gratuitously from more favoured districts in such cases when the necessity is apparent. Both these officials have solemnly promised to do their utmost to relieve the existing distress, and, if they carry out their promises, all will yet be well. The Vali told me this morning that he had already counter-ordered a demand previously made on the Pasin district for 2,000 somars of wheat and an equivalent amount of barley.—*Colonel Wilson, Bayazid, October* 1879.

In 1877 five times during the short space of seven months did an army traverse these districts, taking from the inhabitants supplies of all kinds without payment, and in many cases without giving receipts. Once in the same year, and again in 1878, whole villages, both Christian and Turkish, were compelled to emigrate on account of the fearful ravages committed by the Kurdish irregular cavalry, and in these flights, which were made in company with the armies, great losses were sustained. To make way for the retreating troops the village carts were often pushed off the road and overturned, women and children being trampled on and killed, while those who were unable to advance were overtaken by the Kurds and plundered of everything they possessed. A failure of the harvest has this year completed the ruin of the people.

The inhabitants of these districts are agriculturists and shepherds. Prior to the war they appear to have been in circumstances sufficiently affluent to enable them to pay the legal taxes and other demands which from time to time were made upon their resources without feeling the burden acutely.—*October* 1879.

About ten days ago I received intelligence from various sources that not only were no visible steps being taken to provide the suffering districts with grain for seed and for food, but that several years' arrears of taxes were being again urgently demanded, and that numbers of the inhabitants were being imprisoned for non-compliance with these demands.

Captain Everett reports the inhabitants of Kara-Kilissa and Alashgerd Cazas to be in a state of desperation and prostration.

The only result of the visit of the new Mutessarif has been that in the Alashgerd district an official had been deputed to inquire into the amount of grain required for seed and food. The Report had been sent to Bayazid, and there the matter had rested. In Kara-Kilissa no such inquiry had been set on foot; but, on the other hand, subsequent to the arrival of the new Mutessarif at Bayazid, officials had been sent to the above-mentioned districts demanding most urgently immediate payment, not only of all arrears of taxes legally due, but also of taxes which had already been paid prior to the war; also of taxes from the returned emigrants for the period for which they had been absent in Russia. From the district of Kara-Kilissa above 500,000 piastres were demanded.

The Kaimakam (whom I should state Captain Everett absolves from blame, as he was only carrying out the orders of his superior) had already put several men in prison for non-compliance with these unfair and exorbitant demands, which the people were wholly unable to meet. In Alashgerd Caza also numbers had been arrested for the same reasons.—*November* 1879.

I learn that within the last few days the Minister of the Interior has sent a very urgent message to the authorities here to dispatch at once to the Constantinople Treasury the sum of 40,000*l.* I am informed that the unusual step was taken of demanding it in the Sultan's name—a demand accompanied by compliments on the part of His Majesty.

Should this demand be complied with, as I sincerely trust it will not, we may at once dismiss all hope of funds being available for the proposed reorganization of the gendarmerie, and it will probably prevent the relief of the distressed inhabitants of the Bayazid Sandjak, as to raise the above sum I imagine that it will be necessary to sell the whole of the grain now lying in the Government stores (the produce of this year's tithes) that is not absolutely required for supply to the troops.

The Government will then be left without surplus grain, and without money or the means of raising any.—*Major Trotter, November* 1879.

Accounts from Bayazid and Kara-Kilissa continue to come in at intervals, and show that there is considerable distress in these districts. I do not think any one has yet died from hunger at Kara-Kilissa, but they have lost about 150 head of cattle, and I believe firmly that the people will soon be reduced to very great straits. The last accounts from Bayazid are that from two to three people die daily from hunger, but I cannot answer for the truth of this report.

In a former despatch you will see that I stated that the Vali assured me that the vilayet could not assist in transporting wheat to the famished districts for want of funds. How much truth there was in this statement you may judge from the fact that four days ago the Treasurer of Erzeroum was placed under arrest for robbing the Treasury to the amount of £T. 5,000. At the time, therefore, that the Vali informed me he was penniless, he believed he had a sum greater than that above mentioned in his possession. This will show you what a consummate hypocrite he is.

The price of provisions here is going up very rapidly. That of bread and meat are at this moment higher than they were during the war, and owing to inability on the part of the poor to buy at such high prices, it is to be feared that great suffering will ensue here before the winter, which is very severe, is over.—*January* 1880.

Poor people also, without bread or money, and living upon charity, were being mercilessly pressed. One village said, "Carry us to prison; we will be better there than here; we cannot pay."

Passin Plain, where we spent seven days (27th January to the 2nd February), contains about 600 square miles, in which are situated about 150 villages. Want of snow last winter, and rain last summer, accomplished the destruction of the wheat crop, so that not more than one-eighth of the amount sown was returned in harvest. Some crop was put in last fall. I did not learn how much, but probably an average acreage. We visited five villages and turned homeward, for, having nothing to give, we could not bear to listen over and over again to the stories of destitution and appeals for help.

Ichibod, population 60 families; 5 families utterly destitute at the time of our visit; many others have bread only for a few days.

Kurdish and Turkish village, near Ichibod. In 20 families are 270 persons destitute. Two cases were mentioned in which parents had deserted their houses under the impression that their children, whom they could not feed, would be pitied in their absence.

Yaghan, population 100 families; 200 persons destitute now. In two months 50 families will be added to the list of the starving.

Harsuckar, population 20 families; 4 families destitute.

Ighoo, population 40 families; destitution great; no figures.

Todeveran, 60 families; 5 families destitute now. There is wheat enough in this village, and I think in Yaghan and Komadsor, to feed the people, if the Government could be persuaded to sell it, which, however, it refuses to do. Money, however, is needed with which to buy, as large numbers of the people who have little or no wheat have no money.

Jerason; no figures. Totally destitute; the whole population, with very few exceptions, being now threatened with starvation; neither wheat nor money here.

Euzeveran, population 100 families. In same condition as Jerason. All the other villages united in commiserating the sufferings of these two. The Vali Pasha months ago promised Euzeveran 200 measures of wheat, but failed to redeem his promise. They hold a paper which shows that the Government owes them for cattle, &c., 60,000 piastres, all of which sum, however, except 12,000, has been repudiated, and the attempt is now being made to repudiate the rest. Their flocks also were decimated by the Kurds, who left the villagers a poor remnant.

Komadsor, population 100 families; 5 families destitute now; 15 will be in a few days.

When the Vali was appealed to by some of these villages he said, "What can I do? I have nothing to distribute."

"Family" is an indefinite term, and may include any number of persons from two to fifty.

Accuracy is not easily reached in this country, so that most of my figures are approximations. I have been careful, however, to under rather than over state. Incoming lists of the needy will greatly swell the numbers I have given.

We learned that Reschid Bey, the Cossack officer who distributed to the villagers, say, £T. 3,000, has succeeded in producing quite a favourable impression towards Russia. He was at first driven from Badizhivan, but afterwards invited thither,

where he proved himself more generous than he had been in other villages.—*Report by Rev. R. Chambers to Captain Everett, January* 1880.

Mr. Chambers has returned from the Passin district, bringing back with him a most deplorable account of the state of the villages which he visited. In some of these such destitution exists that the inhabitants are reduced to eating dried roots.

In more than one village the inhabitants are totally destitute, and at Lahiki three men have died from starvation.

The state of things will shortly become still more distressing, as there are very many families whose supplies will be exhausted in a fortnight or three weeks. Generally speaking, he reports the Turkish villages to be in a worse condition than those inhabited by Christians.—*February* 1880.

The distress here is on the increase, and the villagers round are beginning to beg for assistance. The lateness of the season adds to the suffering. The country is still covered in snow. A shaded thermometer never rises above the freezing-point, and during the night still descends below the zero of Fahrenheit.—*April* 3.

Van.

Whilst in Arjesh I learned that the Kurds of that part had shown an increased activity in robbery and evil practices since the commencement of the troubles in Hakkiari. This is partly due, no doubt, to the excitement that the rising in Hakkiari has produced among all the Kurdish tribes, but it may also be partly caused by the present scarcity and high price of corn, leading them to rob to make provision for the winter.—*October* 20.

The price of wheat in the market of Van is at present between three and four times the average price of the preceding five years. Previous to the war the price of wheat was between 25 and 30 piastres the "chap;" during the war the price rose very considerably, but last year it fell again to 40 piastres. Now, however, the price is 120 piastres the chap (1 chap equal to 30 okes, 1 oke equal to 2·83 lbs.; 100 piastres currency are equal to 66 piastres silver; the price of wheat is therefore about 13*s.* 9*d.* per chap of 84½ lbs.). Barley, the principal food for horses in these parts, is scarcely to be obtained at all, and the price asked for the little that is in the market is 70 piastres the chap.

The following are the principal causes of the scarcity and high price of grain:—In the first place, the effects of the war have shown themselves in a scarcity of seed, limiting the area of land sown with grain. The insecurity of the country and the ravages of the Kurds have produced the same effect, and the Kurds have also carried off or destroyed part of the grain which has been grown. Further, the failure of the harvest in the neighbouring districts from drought and locusts caused a very large exportation, which raised prices; but exportation has now been prohibited.—*October* 1879.

I regret to say that the Government is doing nothing for the relief of the peasants of the various districts threatened by famine, viz., Nurduz, Shaddakh, Moks, and Pergri. These districts are those that have especially suffered from the depredations of the Kurds, and are therefore most distressed, but there may, possibly, be more or less distress elsewhere. Not only does the Government fail to relieve the sufferers, but in some instances aggravates the evils of their condition by demanding from them arrears of taxation and the repayment of corn lent to them last year and the year before to help them to recover from the destitution caused by the war. The Government has deceived the peasantry by false promises of assistance, keeping them in suspense for weeks, and hindering them from emigrating, as they otherwise would have done, and now they end by telling them that they will do nothing for them. The result will, I fear, be the most terrible suffering and a very large mortality by starvation.—*November* 1879.

As the winter draws on I regret to say that there appears more and more prospect of great distress from famine. Corn of all kinds has risen to a very high price, and, practically, may be said not to be in the market at all, so that the poorer classes have not been able to lay in their usual supply for the winter, and are living even now from hand to mouth. I am informed that in the town large numbers are living entirely on cabbages, and it is difficult to say what will become of them when the supply of those vegetables ceases, which it will do before long. The Government, it is true, issues a certain amount of corn every day to the bakeries, but there is a general complaint that the supply is insufficient, and that a considerable proportion of what is issued from the Government granaries is dishonestly intercepted before it reaches the public. Crowds

every day surround the bakeries, almost fighting for the bread. Moreover, the bread is sold at a high rate as compared with ordinary years, so as to put it out of the reach of the poorest class, which is very numerous in Van, as a large number of men are absent in Constantinople, leaving the women and children with very small means of living, which, in times like these, is wholly insufficient.

In the country districts distress is also very prevalent. Kurdish depredations, deficient harvests, and official exactions, have left the peasantry almost destitute of grain, either for seed or sustenance during the winter.—*November* 1879.

Yesterday evening the ex-Patriarch Chrimian communicated to me the contents of a letter he had just received from the Vicar of the Armenian Bishop of Bashkala.

The letter was dated the $\frac{5}{17}$th December, and described the destitute condition of the Armenian population of the district of Bashkala. In it the Bishop's Vicar states that 400 families have left the district and gone into Persia, and that the remainder are without food and clothing, and live by going from house to house begging. There is scarcely anything left among them to eat, so that men, women, and children go out into the fields to stay their hunger with roots and grass. It has even occurred that people have eaten earth. On account of this dearth disease is rife, to which many have fallen victims, and many of those who start to emigrate find their death on the way.—*December* 1879.

In all I visited fourteen villages, exclusive of Baskhala itself. The condition of the country I found to be as follows:—The last harvest was an almost total failure. Even the amount of seed sown was not as a rule recovered; in some cases, not more than one-tenth or one-twelfth of the seed was got back. The inhabitants are on this account reduced to the greatest straits. In several of the villages I visited only three or four of the richest households had any bread to eat at all; the remainder had slaughtered and salted their sheep, and were living on this meat without any vegetable diet whatever, and disease was beginning to show itself in consequence. In other places the villagers go out on to the mountains and collect a certain root, which they grind and use for making bread. The root is a somewhat large one, semi-woody and semi-succulent, with a very bitter taste. The plant to which it belongs is said to have large broad leaves, but I could not, from the description, make out to what species it belongs. Several cases were reported to me of persons having been frozen to death whilst searching for it, and in nearly every village children had died from want of proper nourishment. The best bread I saw in the villages was made with one-third of this root and two-thirds barley meal (but such bread only the richest could afford); the worst consisted of a mixture of the root and linseed or hemp-seed, with hardly any flour at all. This last kind of bread is said to produce a narcotic effect, often sending those who eat it into a sort of swoon or trance. Even of this bread they have not enough for more than one scanty meal a day. Only a very small area of land has been sown for next year. The land was ploughed and prepared, but there was no seed. The prospects for next year will be therefore very gloomy unless the people can be assisted to procure seed for spring sowing.—*Captain Clayton, February* 1880.

I regret to have to report that the suffering from famine in parts of this vilayet is on the increase. Bashkala, Nurduz, and Shaddakh are in the worst condition. Yesterday the Armenian Archbishop informed me that he had received a written Report of fifty-five deaths from starvation having taken place in six villages near Khoshab, part in the district of Bashkala, and part in that of Nurduz, and to-day I have heard that word has come from Nurduz and Shaddakh that the people there, having eaten everything else, are now slaughtering their asses.—*February* 22, 1880.

I regret to say that the condition of the country as regards famine is getting worse. Last week a report came from Bashkala of 138 deaths that had occurred in that district, and yesterday Dr. Reynolds, one of the American missionaries, showed me a letter that he had received from an Armenian Protestant there, in which the condition of things was said to be very miserable. The Government had recommended to each nationality to look after their own poor. Among the Turks and Jews there are a considerable number of rich men, but the Bashkala Armenians are none of them rich, and can do but little to help the very poor. The writer said he knew of one family that consisted of seven persons; of these four had died, and the remaining three when he saw them were so weak they could not walk. It is also reported from Bashkala that the people are grinding a kind of stone to make bread.

To add to the distress the Government at Constantinople has issued an Order that the beshlik and "métallique" currency are not to be received in payment of taxes for the year beginning the 1st of this month except to the extent of 5 per cent., but payment must be made either in silver or gold. The consequence is, that the value of those currencies has fallen to one-third of what it was previously, and as the money in possession of the poor and villagers in these parts consists almost entirely in these currencies, it is impossible as yet to realize the amount of loss, hardship, and misery the order will entail upon them.—*March* 17, 1880.

Vice-Consul Clayton telegraphed 15th May that 4,000 people will require feeding for the next two months, and on the 19th that the price of corn had nearly doubled since his last telegram, and it was doubtful how much could be obtained.

Erzeroum.

The distress in Erzeroum is increasing greatly. It is poverty in the midst of plenty. With very large stores of flour in the city the price of bread has risen to such a height that many poor are unable to buy. When the Government sold the wheat it was bought wholesale by speculators, all of whom are holding Government appointments. These unscrupulous men, who ought from their very position to be taking measures to allay the distress, are, in fact, the chief promoters of it, and are holding back the flour in the hope of exacting still higher prices later on.—*Captain Everett, January* 1880.

I proceeded on the 1st instant with 150*l.* to the Passin district, accompanied by Mr. Robert Chambers and Badvelli Agoup, missionaries. I visited and examined personally thirteen villages, and have given relief to eighteen.

The distress in many of them was great, and I found the inhabitants of the Turkish village of Zuluki on the point of starvation. Those of Koggle and Haran, villages situated on the left bank of the Araxes between Kuprikoi and Chorassan, and those of Yuzveran on the caravan road, were mainly in the same state.—*Captain Everett, March* 12, 1880.

Diarbekir.

The price of provisions is getting very high, and already the signs of poverty and famine are appearing. Hundreds of Arab families are located in the neighbourhood of Diarbekir. Farmers are demanding seed for next year, but the Government does not care much about it. I pointed out, both to the Vali and to the Commission the other day, the danger of neglecting an affair like this. They promised to consider the matter. —*August* 1879.

The whole of the country between this and Aleppo is in a miserable state; indeed, one bordering on famine. The snow-fall, almost unprecedented, has been great, and the ground covered with snow for five weeks; the cold is intense. The people as you know are utterly unprepared for this, and are but lightly clad, and only furnished with a small store of ox and camel dung fuel for cooking purposes.

The live stock, commencing with the sheep, has been dying off in thousands; in almost every village one found 12 up to 500 dead animals and few survivors. Of course, no one knows the loss yet even approximately, not even the villagers themselves, as many of the flocks are at distant pastures. In Urfa sheep were for sale at 10 and 15 piastres a-piece, and no buyers, as there is no food for them. Forage is at famine prices, and "saman" or chopped straw a piastre per oke, and often more. In addition to this the failure of last year's crops has left the villagers but little grain; wheat, for example, ordinarily at 60 to 80 piastres the kilo of 180 okes, is now selling at about 400 piastres per kilo, and barley at about 300 piastres. In many of the villages I couldn't get a feed of barley for the horses. Here there is a scarcity of grain, but not as great as at Mosul, to which place export by raft has been just authorized by the Vali. At Kharput and Sivas there is a good deal of grain, some of which will find its way here if the roads are open. There are 2,000 destitute in the town supported by charity. In the rural districts the severity of the winter will have occasioned considerable loss of human life I expect. The loss of sheep and goats will very seriously affect the revenue of the district, a large portion of which is derived from the "aghnam" or sheep tax, as will also the losses of the inhabitants, who will be unable to pay their property tax, &c.—*February* 1880.

I regret to have to report that the distress on account of dearness and scarcity of provisions is rapidly increasing at Diarbekir and throughout the eastern portions of this vilayet, and I fear that many lives will be lost.

In the districts about Diarbekir itself there is great scarcity; in many places nothing to eat, and the poor are flocking into Diarbekir in considerable numbers, not

only from villages in the vicinity, but from Midyad, Djezireh, the desert, and in some instances even from Van and Mosul. About 3,000 destitute poor are now being fed by charity in Diarbekir itself.

It is really impossible to form any accurate estimate as to what amount of suffering and mortality there will ultimately be.

As far as I can learn, the principal suffering will be in the Eastern Pasin, the Alishgird, and Bayazid districts of the Erzeroum Vilayet, the whole of the country north, east, south, and south-west of Lake Van, extending right down thence through a broad strip of country to Mosul and Kerkuk. This tract of famine country spreads wider as it goes south, and may be said to extend from Diarbekir, through Mardin and Midyad, Nisibin, and Sert (Soort), eastwards right up to the Persian frontier, and from the number of destitute Arabs now here from the desert to the south of Diarbekir, I fear there will be much suffering there also.

I believe deaths have occurred at Bayazid, Mosul, and Kerkuk, and Captain Clayton telegraphed to me a few days ago that fifty-five persons had died of hunger in six villages near Khoshab, *i.e.*, about half-way between Van and Bashkaleh. I believe also that there have been isolated cases of death from starvation in many parts of the region previously described.—*March* 1880.

Unfortunately, in this vilayet the distress is so widespread and the means of communication so bad, that if the money at my disposal were tenfold what it is I should not feel justified in attempting that method of relief, even if the Government would give the grain on loan, which at present they seem to have no intention of doing; so with the exception of 20*l.*, which I have sent to the American missionaries at Mardin for distribution amongst the most needy of their neighbourhood, I am employing the remainder of the sum at my disposal in the relief of the 3,000 poor in Diarbekir—most of them refugees from the famine districts further east. I am now distributing two rations per week of good soup to about 1,800 persons, besides contributing in money to the local relief Committees already formed. I hope with the means at my disposal to be able to continue this system of relief until harvest time (end of May), when I hope and trust that the necessity for these measures will cease. In one khan alone there are 1,400 strangers, men, women, and children, mostly Kurds and Arabs, in rags and without any means of subsistence, except a daily dole of ⅔ths of a pound of biscuit. The soup given from the funds at my disposal will probably help to keep body and soul together.

I need hardly say that the beneficial political effect produced by the distribution of the small sum at my disposal is immensely over-proportioned to the means employed. For 1*l.* disbursed the British come in for 100*l.* worth of blessing, and if any means could be found to increase the sum at my disposal I would most earnestly beg your Lordship to set those means in motion. Those numerous strangers who are here now, and whose life I trust may be preserved, will, if they survive, each one carry back to his home and spread amongst his friends a kindly feeling to the British people, who succoured them in their dire distress.

For those who are disposed to look to the stomach rather than to sentiment, I may say that I can provide a capital ration of good soup to 1,200 persons at an expenditure of about 3*l.* sterling, so that a little money goes a long way.—*March* 1880.

Sivas.

During the last few days heavy snow has fallen; the Circassians, whose entire wealth lies in their horses, seeing ruin staring them in the face, have become excited, and they are, I hear, preparing to move towards the Aleppo Vilayet, with a view of trying to sell such of their horses as they can get through the snow; in any case many, especially mares in foal, must die.

It seems inconceivable that the Turkish Government should at this moment, with a Kurd rebellion threatening on the frontier, run the risk, by an act of great injustice, of losing several hundred horses—in themselves a source of wealth to the country—and of raising a feeling of discontent among the Circassians, which may lead to serious consequences. The Circassians will not, as the Turkish peasantry do, sit down quietly and lose all without a struggle; they will, I fear, take to plundering, and, if they do, the Turkish Government will be alone to blame.

Nothing could have been better hitherto than the conduct of the Circassians in the matter of the horses. They have waited patiently for three weeks for an answer from the Porte, and have not yet received any reply. The question is one which might have been decided in five minutes.—*November* 1879.

Mosul.

The Mutessarif of Mosul has prohibited the export of the following articles, viz., figs, raisins, peas, lentils, onions, burghul, madkoka (no English names for these), wheat, barley, rice, grease, sesame, cut straw, and butter.

The prohibition of export of those articles has become necessary, as great fears are entertained that if rain does not fall shortly there will be a famine at Mosul. The last harvest was a very bad one. The price of wheat is now 24 to 26 piastres the wazna, and barley 16 to 18 piastres. Prices have been gradually rising, and riots have very nearly taken place in the wheat bazaars. The holders of grain withhold their stores in the hope of higher prices. Everything is 50 per cent. dearer than it was two years ago.—*November* 1879.

Adalia.

The whole of the west of this vilayet has suffered greatly for the last five or six years from locusts. The people are greatly impoverished, and many of the poorer classes are obliged to eke out an existence on a little maize, to which they add mashed-up grass or herbs.—*Captain Stewart, January* 1880.

Vu les circonstances difficiles, je me trouve dans l'obligation de vous donner une idée de l'état actuel et fâcheux du pays. La famine sévit tellement que dans plusieurs cantons les pauvres malheureux habitants meurent réellement de faim. Ni dans le pays ni dans les environs il n'est possible de trouver du blé ou autres céréales. Le mode d'approvisionnement est complétement inconnu dans ces contrées.—*Patriarch Ma-Shimoun to Captain Clayton, January* 26, 1880.

The gross laxity in the collection of taxes has been a terrible misfortune to the country. Not alone have the people been called upon to pay at once, and at a very unpropitious time, sums which ought to have been spread over a number of years, but they have also been taught to trust for avoiding payment to the venality, soft-heartedness, and indolence of the officials. The wholesome training that on a certain day they will infallibly be called upon to pay sums for which they ought to make due preparation by work and self-denial has been wanting, and what, perhaps, might have tended to improve has only confirmed them in their indolent, shiftless, and improvident mode of living, putting off to the morrow what ought to have been done to-day, and trusting to a happy accident or charity to save them from a threatened evil. This miserable state of mind was lately exhibited by the headmen of some villages near here, who, when asked to take measures for the destruction of the locusts, replied, "Why should we toil; surely the Sultan will feed us?" At another village near Afium Karahissar, they replied, "Why should we set to work to destroy the locusts? We have sufficient for our immediate wants, and they are welcome to the rest. Are we not told to make all guests welcome?"—*Captain Stewart, February* 8, 1880.

Aleppo.

I have just been exploring the Ginour-Dagh; the condition of the refugees there is terrible. At Bagtche, a caza of the Adana Vilayet, where there were thousands, none remain but the dead. I cannot make out where the others have gone. The Government, whatever it may do theoretically, practically gives no assistance in settling, only a dole of rations; that is intermittent, and in many cases discontinued; nothing in the way of implements, oxen, seed, corn, help with dwelling, &c. I take an example: last week I found 25 families, some 100 persons—they are the living remnant of nearly 2,000 people. In all nearly 2,000 families came to this caza (Islahia), but of these many have gone elsewhere; of the 2,000 people that remained over 1,800 have died (so they say), and the number of fresh graves was enormous; some they tell me lay about unburied and were actually eaten by dogs (in one case, if I did not misunderstand, before death).

The sallow, half-starved, fever-stricken little remnant are apathetic and hopeless; the dole of a ration, worth 20 paras per head per diem, with half and quarter rations for non-adults, ceased months ago (I think they said five); for Bairam they received 1 grad (3 okes) per head (adults), or a nine days' dole. I bought them rations for some ten days, and brought some of them to Saïd Pasha (they chanced to be old friends, some of 500 whom I had supported for a few weeks in Bulgaria myself till I got assistance from a Committee), and their delight at seeing me was intense, though even the men could hardly speak coherently for their tears, and we got up a subscription for oxen, tools, &c., of 8,000 piastres.

This is only one case, but I know many others. I have spent personally about 50*l.*, and I am glad to give it, but I cannot at present give much more. If one could only get 500*l.* or 600*l.* from some Society, not to be spent in rations, which the Government must give in grain, but solely in settling the people, giving picks, shovels, ploughs, &c., helping them to make dwellings. It is really terrible to see these half-starved, fever-stricken wretches and the little skeleton babes tugging at the empty breast.

I have seen shocking things in Turkey, but this lingering destruction by a slow death is the most awful thing I know.—*Lieutenant Chermside, Marash, October* 1, 1879.

As regards the refugees, what I propose to do is this: to urge, and shame, and worry the authorities into giving them rations of grain where necessary, as is the case in almost all cases; and also, as Said has promised, and has actually done in one case, to get officers (military) told off to actually visit the sites, mark out the ground, and assist in constructing the dwellings; then it is that I propose to help, as far as funds allow me, buying a few pairs of oxen when necessary for the community, buying tools, &c., and, if necessary, assisting in the transport of material for the dwellings. The actual giving of food is merely transient and temporary, and, if anything, except in attendant in extreme cases, merely enables the authorities, who possess, as a rule, Government grain, to shirk their obligations.

* * * * *

Pushed on from place to place, no one will receive them; villages which cultivate enormous tracts of land, cultivating different pieces different years, refuse to give up any, and the poor wretches suffer as I have described.

* * * * *

The people, without oxen, seed, implements, &c., camp on the ground, and live on the Government dole, or, when this is withheld or discontinued, as best they can. No one actually definitely shows the site of villages, marks out the ground family by family, sees that dwellings are made, that they have means of tilling the soil, &c.; and this is absolutely necessary, not only as regards the present, but to avoid future complications.

The refugees, on their side, are often very unreasonable; they wish to attach themselves to the sites of existing villages; unless at hand there is a copious brook capable of irrigating land, no matter what springs there may be, and capabilities of wells, they are not content; then, too, there must be a ready-made forest to destroy, and so on.—*Lieutenant Chermside, November* 1879.

As one of the causes of the distress has been the number of Circassians who have been imported or allowed to immigrate, the following statements are of interest:—

Circassian Immigration.

Major Trotter reported in October 1879 that he had been informed by the Vali of Erzeroum that about 10,000 families had given notice of their intention to leave the Russian territory from the districts of Kars, Ardahan, and Kaghyman. Of these 3,878 families, numbering in all 23,198 souls, have already arrived in Erzeroum.

Besides these, 10,000, mostly Circassians, had already arrived in the Sivas Vilayet.

The refugees consist of Circassians, Lazis, Georgians, Tartars, and Turks from Kars. The Circassians are chiefly Gabartai, Tegai, Abbas, and Absekh; the two first came overland to Sivas, the last by sea to Samsun. The Gabartai and Tegai are at present in the Uzun Yaila and the vicinity of Tocat; the Abbas and Absekh chiefly in the Sandjak of Amasia. The Lazis have been temporarily settled in the Kara-Hissar Sandjak, the Kars Turks near Sivas, the Georgians and Tartars in the Amasia and Kara-Hissar Sandjaks.

It has been too much the custom to abuse the refugees, and throw the blame of nearly every crime committed in the country upon them. My own experience of the refugees, which is now somewhat varied, is that under much provocation, and under very great temptations, they have conducted themselves well, and that the percentage of crime amongst them has been small. The majority of the refugees will make good colonists, and, if properly cared for, will soon settle down and become a well ordered peasantry.

I must, too, express my conviction that the Circassians, if controlled by a firm hand and treated with justice, would form an element of strength rather than of weakness to Turkey. They belong to a physically fine race, and are, as a rule, more manly and straightforward than the native peasantry. They have also much natural ability, and would readily acquire education. Many of the Circassian villages show efforts at cleanliness and other improvements, which are sadly wanting in the villages of Anatolia. The robberies for which the Circassians have acquired an evil reputation have been committed by a few desperate men whose names are well known, and by men of other nationalities who put on for the occasion the Circassian dress.—*Colonel Wilson, January* 1880.

Colonel Wilson also reported February 18, 1880: "It appears that there are at present in the sandjak 2,514 families of refugees, containing 13,472 souls, viz.:—

	Families.	Souls.	
Noghai Tartars	57	289	Came overland from Kars and Erzeroum.
Circassians	314	1,724	
Daghistanis	245	1,054	
Kars Moslems	1,465	8,515	
Erzeroum Moslems	17	95	
Roumelian Circassians	408	1,729	Came by sea to Samsoon, and thence by land.
Roumelian Moslems	18	66	
Total	2,514	13,472	

Causes of the Distress.

On looking at a map it will be seen that the famine prevails along the Russian frontier, and extends southward down the Tigris to Mossul, and westward to Sivas and Aleppo, thus covering nearly the whole of the district termed Armenia.

The causes to which it is to be ascribed are—

1. The late war.
2. The failure of harvests.
3. The unsettled state of the country and raids of the Kurds.
4. The call for arrears of taxes hitherto allowed to remain unpaid.
5. The depreciation of the currency.
6. The arrival of large bodies of destitute refugees from Lazistan, and Circassians and others from Bulgaria and Roumelia.
7. The mismanagement of the grain stores by the local authorities.

According to the telegraphic reports which are daily being received there seems every prospect that, unless some adequate measures of timely relief are taken, and seed-corn supplied, the famine will continue, and be even more severe next winter than it was last. The consequence will naturally be that the country will be in a still more disturbed state than at present, and the Christians, who are rather better off than the Mussulmans, not having suffered from loss of men in the war, will be exposed to considerable danger from the starving refugees and from the disbanded soldiers and others who have been driven to plunder by destitution.

Mr. Goschen desired that the attention of the Cabinet should be directed to this very serious state of affairs throughout Armenia in connection with the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which the Porte is about to be called upon to execute. The most pressing of all reforms in a starving country is to give the population the means of sustaining life; and he thought that possibly something might be done if the Porte could be prevailed upon to employ some English officer or other foreigner who had experience of famine relief to organize on a better system the supply of grain and seed-corn and other necessaries from the Government stores.

It is a question of policy whether such an appointment could be proposed to the Porte at the present time, and whether, if, as is probable, such an officer found the supplies wholly inadequate, and the Porte unable to give more, either in money or stores, his presence in the famished districts would not be regarded as holding out hopes of substantial assistance which it would be impossible to realize without large grants in aid from this country.

TENTERDEN.

Foreign Office, May 21, 1880.

No. 187.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 22.*)

Constantinople, le 20 Mai, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

IL résulte d'un télégramme du Gouverneur-Général de Syrie que dernièrement un certain nombre d'habitants Chrétiens de Homs étant allés à la rencontre de quelques-uns de leurs compatriotes revenant de pèlerinage ont tiré des coups de feu en guise de fantasia aux environs de la caserne et de la poudrière de cette ville. Les troupes Impériales ayant voulu les empêcher de continuer à tirer ainsi des coups de feu, une rixe s'ensuivit dans laquelle un d'eux perdit la vie et quelques autres ainsi que six soldats furent blessés.

Comme on paraît donner à cette affaire une importance qu'elle est loin de mériter, et qu'il est probable que la malveillance cherchera à exagérer outre mesure les circonstances de cette rixe, j'ai cru devoir vous faire connaître la vérité pour que vous puissiez combattre toute version contraire.

No. 188.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 25.*)

(No. 25. Political. Confidential.)

Beyrout, May 8, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 24 of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a despatch, No. 33, and its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting further on the trial of the officials implicated in the Baalbek frauds.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 188.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 33. Confidential.)

Beyrout, May 8, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 29 of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a despatch, marked Confidential, which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Jago, reporting on the proceedings in connection with the trial of the officials implicated in the recent fiscal frauds of Baalbek. It would appear from the account furnished by Mr. Jago that all the accused persons have been acquitted, on the ground of want of proof, but that the finding of the Administrative Council of the Liwa has to be confirmed by the Administrative Council of the vilayet. The latter has, it seems, declared the sentence of the former irregular, and Midhat Pasha, the President, has referred it to a Special Commission of the Council for revision; but there is no probability of the sense of the finding being altered. His Highness has, however, dismissed all the officials inculpated from their posts, as morally guilty, with the exception of the Judge of Baalbec, and amongst them is included Hoosni Effendi, the Mumiz, or Superintendent of the Land Tax Office at Damascus, who was mentioned as connected with the illegal transactions in Mr. Consul-General Eldridge's despatch No. 22, Confidential, of the 11th March last. Mr. Rattray, the English gentleman who has been a victim to the extortions of these officials, sent in a written deposition of his evidence against those implicated; but, from the Report of Mr. Jago, it would appear that it has been rejected because the accused denied its accuracy. Mr. Rattray has been chiefly instrumental in bringing these fiscal frauds to light; and by his long residence in the country and his thorough acquaintance with the officials of the district in which he lives, he has been able to furnish the clearest information in regard to transactions so detrimental to the proper government and advancement of Syria. The sentence issued by the Administrative Council, and which is likely to be confirmed by the Commission appointed to revise it, acquits the accused officials, and consequently debars Mr. Rattray from all hope of ever being able to recover the extra fees that were paid by him, and which

have amounted to close upon 8,000 piastres. This is a hardship that Mr. Rattray hardly expected, and is not the recompense which his endeavours to obtain an impartial investigation on the part of his Highness Midhat Pasha and a trial of the culprits, by his exposure of the frauds, seem to have merited.

I leave to your Excellency's appreciation the other comments that Mr. Jago has thought fit to make in his Report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 188.

Vice-Consul Jago to Acting Consul-General Dickson.

(No. 3. Confidential.)

Damascus, May 5, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 2 of the 22nd ultimo, stating that, with reference to the recent cases of fraud committed in the Baalbek district by Government officials in connection with the reduction of the land tax, you are given to understand that the persons implicated in the transaction have been brought to trial before the authorities at Damascus. You therefore request me to furnish you with a Report on the proceedings relating to this case.

In reply, I beg to state that all the accused have been acquitted on the ground of want of proof.

The case stands thus: Mohamed Said Effendi, Kaïmakam of Musallaka, went to Baalbek as Special Commissioner to investigate the matter. This he seems to have done thoroughly and impartially, and collected sufficient evidence to justify him in arresting and bringing to Damascus for trial the Land Tax Clerk and the Treasury Clerk, together with several native witnesses. I am not acquainted with the exact nature of the evidence he collected, but it is said to have been exceedingly strong. At all events, his report to his Highness was of such a nature as to cause the latter to immediately remove from office all the functionaries inculpated with the exception of the Cadi of Baalbek. These functionaries were the Kaïmakam, the Land Tax Official, and the Treasury Clerk of Baalbek, and the Mumeïz, or Superintendent of the Central Land Tax Office of Damascus, together with the Chief Clerk.

The Mumeïz, or Superintendent, has been since replaced by an official sent from Constantinople.

The preliminary trial took place before the Administrative Council of the Liwa, the finding of which has, according to regulation, to be confirmed by the Administrative Council of the vilayet. I am informed, on credible authority, that before the case was gone into, intimidation of the witnesses was practised by interested parties, and that when before the Court they were bullied and browbeaten by those members who, on the long-established principle of reciprocity, defend the present system of corruption of officials and members of Medjlisses, both for pecuniary advantages and to secure for themselves, their friends, and seats immunity from the present defective administration of justice. As this is the rule in Damascus without an exception, as far as twelve years' experience goes, no doubt can remain on my mind. I am also assured that the witnesses, seeing how things were going, returned to their homes, and have entered into a compact never again to tender evidence in cases of corruption, but to adhere to the time-honoured custom of feeing or bribing officials whenever recourse to them becomes necessary in the ordinary transactions of their lives. The evidence of the witnesses having been thus stultified, there remained the written deposition of Mr. Rattray, whose verbal testimony had already been freely given at the request of the authorities before the Commissioner at Baalbek. This clearly inculpates, and beyond doubt, both the Land Tax Official of Baalbek and Nadra Shameeyah, the Christian employé and Treasury Clerk, who acted as broker or go-between, between the former and the public. The Land Tax Official contented himself with simply denying the whole matter, while Shameeyah declared himself to be a Greek subject, and declined to answer questions. Although this latter pretension was controverted by consultation of the Government registers, the objection was held to be valid enough to stop further inquiry. Here the matter seems to have ended. Mohamed Said Effendi returned to Musallaka a silent if not a wiser man, and the Court decided there was no proof of actual payment. This took place some weeks ago, but the final Muzbatta, or "sentence *in extenso*," was not drawn up till the 29th ultimo, when

Midhat Pasha, on the eve of departure on a tour of inspection, pressed the President to finish the case. On the 1st instant the Mazbatta was therefore presented to the Administrative Council of the vilayet for confirmation, when it was declared irregular, as not agreeing with the interrogatories, and was therefore referred by Midhat Pasha, the President, to a Special Commission of the Council for the purpose of revision. Thus the case now stands, but I am not aware of any probability of the original sense of the finding being altered.

In confidential communication with one of the members of the preliminary Court, he could not but confess to me that there was not the shadow of a moral doubt as to the culpability of the accused—an opinion shared in by the public chiefly on the grounds of every-day experience—while defending the finding of the Court on the grounds that no positive evidence of payment was adduced, what was forthcoming being simply unsupported statements denied by the accused. My informant was less communicative as to the treatment of witnesses in and out of Court.

I avail of your personal knowledge of Damascus, and of its chronic corruption, to state that Nadra Shameeyah, the Treasury Clerk, has near relations in two of the Courts here, one of whom (his brother) is a member of the Court which tried the case. On the 1st instant, calling upon Midhat Pasha, I asked him, for your information, what was the final decision in the inquiry. His reply was, "no proof," complaining that no person could be found to testify to having paid money, which he ascribes to the usual influences employed; and that as regards Mr. Rattray's written statement, the accused denied its accuracy. His Highness also expressed his regret that you had been unable to prove ("constater") actual payment. He confessed, however, that he had no moral doubt on the matter, and had consequently dismissed the accused from their posts.

I then inquired whether the finding of the Court would involve reinstalment in office of the accused, when he told me no, that they would remain "under suspicion."

As usual, when I venture to mention the defects of the present state of things and its disastrous effects on the country, his Highness was good enough to acquiesce in everything I said.

The upshot of this matter appears to me very clear. His Highness having convinced himself on the report of Mohamed Said Effendi as to the truth of the accusations, shrinks from employing the necessary pressure to secure impartial investigation by the Courts, which would naturally be followed by conviction, entailing, according to Article 108 of the Ottoman Criminal Code, heavy imprisonment, fines, and restitution of moneys unduly exacted, and contents himself with dismissing the accused functionaries from their posts.

I need hardly point out to you that the question of independence of Tribunals from the interference of the Executive is not involved in this case, as the Administrative Councils are under its direct control, subject, of course, to appeal to Constantinople.

This belief in the disinclination of his Highness to press matters to extremes is, I find, shared in by several members of the Higher Court, and which will, I believe, result in the revision being found to be confined to form and not to matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 180.

Consul A. Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 8. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, May 12, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 6 and 7 of the 20th and 30th ultimo, I have the honour to communicate to your Lordship the information which I have just received with regard to the intention of a portion of the Christian population of Kerassond and Ordoo to emigrate to Russia.

I can do no better than repeat the very words of one of my informants, a friend of mine, who happened to be going on a casual visit to that locality, and whom I begged to communicate to me all the details he could gather on the subject.

"There is everywhere a good deal of talk about the emigration of the Christian population to Russia. The estimate made by the peasants on my way from Kerassond

to Turna-soo varied from 300 to 1,000 families. It is at Ordoo that I heard this morning that the whole population is ready to emigrate if the authorities would persist in the intention of settling the Lazes in the country.

"The excitement here seems to be occasioned by the unfortunate occurrence of an attempt to assassinate an Armenian youngster by a Laz in plain daylight on last Wednesday, a crowded market day. The young men seem to have quarrelled, and the Laz made free use of his camma, wounding the Armenian dangerously.

"The Turkish population join in their threats of emigration, and the local Beys are encouraging this spirit of opposition in the hope of warding off the projected settlement of the Lazistan head-quarters in this vicinity.

"I dare say there will be various telegrams and mazbatas sent to the Governor, and, may be, to Constantinople, and they should be taken advantage of in order to demonstrate to the Lazes the necessity of giving up their arms, or, at least, of keeping them at home, and in no case allowing, under severe penalties, the carrying about of a whole arsenal.

"This measure will carry with it the advantage of subjecting the local Beys and their minions to the same regulation, and will do away with one of the principal subjects of complaint. But the measure to be beneficial should be a *bonâ fide* one, and one bearing on the face of it a character of honesty and permanency, such as an international decision can only give. The measure would be a great comfort to both Mussulman and Christian populations, which seem to be cowed down and to have lost all characteristic of honourable manhood under the terrorism which has oppressed them, and still continues to oppress them, and which the local Beys can ill conceal behind the mazbatas and shahadetnamés ('testimonies') which they exact from time to time from interested Tsorbadjis and corrupt priests, who are certainly more to blame than those feudal Chiefs who have inherited these abuses from their forefathers.

"The oppression is now felt incomparably more than in former ages for not only the contact with the outside world, through travelling, commerce, and the wars, has made it manifest to both Moslem and Christian that their condition at home is abnormal, but the Beys themselves are not the Beys of old of whom we have heard and read, those rich, magnanimous, hospitable lords, whose patriarchal Government was naturally and thankfully submitted to; with few exceptions, the Beys and Agas of the present day are abject instruments in the hands of a corrupt Government for oppressing a population which tyranny has rendered vicious and submissive.

"The Beys would fain be independent and exercise all those iniquities to their own benefit, but they are obliged to count with officials trained to duplicity and cunning.

"Some of them are accused of tolerating if not authorizing brigandage in their vast domains, and as to their morals it is useless to say anything. They are certainly the lowest dissolute beggars.

"As to the emigration of the Christians, I am not competent to judge of the sincerity of their intentions, for one must have the time to study the question.

"There is no doubt, however, that Russia has every interest in giving the lands abandoned by the turbulent Circassians, the Abazes, and the Lazes, to a submissive Christian population, and I hear that if it were not for the scandal it would create, Russia would send steamers to take them away. She is said to offer 130 roubles per emigrant, and freedom from military service and taxes for several years, and that the last arrangements are about to be made. Some few have already sold their cattle and offer to sell the planks with which their houses are built.

"The Turkish Government should have tried to neutralize these efforts of its worst enemy to deprive them of the most industrious portion of the population of this part of the country, by offering these much oppressed people every sort of guarantee against their own officials, the Beys, and the Muhadjirs ('immigrants'). But the Turkish guarantees without English guarantees would be ineffectual.

"The Turks say, and Ali Pacha (Tsuruksooli) is of the same opinion, that it is only talk on the part of the Christians, but that they will not go. This may be so at first, but if they are on the one hand abandoned by their own Government, and on the other, encouraged by a neighbouring country, where at least their material improvement is evidently taken care of, one does not know what may happen.

"If, therefore, the English Government have any interest in the matter, they should act with vigour and promptitude."

I have heard from another source, that of a Mussulman, that there is between the Kaimakam of Kerassond and the Greek population an estrangement arising out of several motives; the principal of which is that of a Greek youth, of 22 years of

age, having embraced Islamism about two months ago; and that the Kaïmakam, though a man of learning, is unfit for the post he holds. With regard to the conversion in question, I have been informed by the Greek Archbishop, who was at Kerassond at the time, that he had no motive to complain of the conduct of the Turkish authorities in that case.

However this may be, the fact remains that there is bad blood between the Kaïmakam and the delegate of the Greek Archbishop, as well as a certain Captain Giorgi, the leading member of the Greek community, who has unbounded influence over his co-religionists. On the other hand, the Greeks in the district of Kerassond, who number nearly 3,000 families, do not seem, for the most part, to be landed proprietors. They cultivated lands belonging to Turks, halving with them the produce of the soil; but they enjoyed the use of Government pasture lands for their flocks. These lands having been assigned to the Laz immigrants, the Greeks are deprived of all interest in their native country.

If, therefore, the Russians wish to promote emigration, they have a ready field to carry on their scheme; and I am under the impression that the Russian Consular authorities are availing themselves of the circumstance. After the movements of Russian officers, which I reported in my preceding despatch, the Russian Cancellier was dispatched to Rizeh, to look after the interests of Russian subjects, of whom there is not a single one there. But, as instead of proceeding there by steamer, the Cancellier started overland, and as there are no bridges to cross the rivers, which are not fordable, the general belief is, that the excursion has for object the propagation of emigration, and that it will very likely, from Surmenah, be pushed inland to Matchka, in which last place the Greek element predominates.

I understand that, on the return of his Cancellier, the Russian Acting-Consul himself intends to repair again to Kerassond, and perhaps proceed as far as Samsoon.

The Mussulmans in the canton of Akyuma, which is situated at six or seven hours from Kerassond, are also reported to be very dissatisfied, owing to the lands, which they are said to hold under regular title-deeds, having been given over to the Lazes.

The following case, which has lately been brought to my knowledge, shows the evident danger which would accrue to the Moslem and Christian populations by scattering the Lazes over the country and in the vicinity of inhabited spots.

A Turk, living in the vicinity of Ordoo, hired a few weeks ago a party of Lazes to lend him a hand in carrying off, during the night, a young Mussulman girl.

The father resisted the assailants and killed one of the Lazes.

The following day they congregated in imposing numbers, with the object of avenging the death of their countryman. Luckily that Tsuruksooli Ali Pasha, happening to be on the spot, strongly expostulated with them, and ordered them to keep quiet, as their dead companion had only met with the fate which he deserved.

This instance shows the urgency of keeping the Lazes under the direct control of their recognized chiefs, a result which can only be attained by assigning to them the extensive uninhabited lands which are said to be found at some distance from the seashore, on the south of Kerassond and Ordoo.

But it would seem that the Porte is adverse to the creation of large settlements of Lazes, from fear that they may become too powerful, and be a source of trouble to the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 190.

Consul A. Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 11. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, May* 14, 1880.

I RECEIVE this moment, from a Mussulman, a letter dated Boulanjik (district of Kerassond), 10th instant, the contents of which confirm several of the statements contained in my previous despatches on the subject of the impending Christian emigration to Russia, and complete some details which had been vaguely communicated to me.

Christians, as well as Mussulmans, most bitterly complain of the arbitrary treatment to which they are subjected on the part of the local Beys, and of their not being in the least protected by the Government.

Each Bey keeps, as followers, a gang of ten or fifteen ruffians, who perpetrate the most nefarious deeds. Amongst other things, Mussulmans, but only those who are on friendly terms with their Christian neighbours, are attacked in their own houses, and their wives carried off.

As the perpetrators of these deeds are the retainers of the local Beys, the aggrieved parties do not dream of complaining to the local Governor, for as he will and can do nothing on their behalf, their lodging a complaint would only have for effect to bring upon them fresh misfortunes.

Owing to this intolerable state of things, nearly 300 Christian families from Boulanjik, which consists of 10 Mussulman, 15 Armenian, and about 450 Greek houses, have made up their mind to emigrate to Russia, and are selling their cattle and other movable property, and are also trying to dispose of their houses and lands. These intended emigrants are the poorest in the village, but it seems that those who are better off likewise intend to emigrate to Russia as soon as they wind up their affairs.

The Greeks residing in the surrounding villages are also making preparations of departure. Those of the village of Bazarsooï, which consists of sixty houses, are already disposing of their property, and are looking for a vessel to convey them to Russia.

Fifty Armenian families from the same village, which is at an hour's distance from Boulanjik, have likewise decided to emigrate to Russia.

According to the information obtained by my correspondent, nearly 1,500 Christian families seem disposed to depart from the district of Boulanjik and its neighbourhood.

The motives assigned are the vexations to which they are subjected on the part of the Beys, and the expected arrival of Laz immigrants; but of the first they speak with exasperation, while they use the second rather as a pretext. They do not complain of the Government taxation; but the dissatisfaction of the population, whether Mussulman or Christian, against the local Beys and their minions seems to be unbounded.

The Armenian Bishop has informed me that within the last twenty days three highway robberies have been committed by Lazes between Ooniah and Terme, westward of Ordoo; that quite lately thirty Christian families have clandestinely emigrated from the village of Utch Boonar, near Vona, and that as many families had concealed themselves in the woods, also waiting for a vessel to embark for Russia.

I have considered it my duty to transmit, without delay, whatever information I have received, and, as far as possible, in the very words of my correspondents, in order to enable your Lordship to form an exact idea of the state of things in the western part of this vilayet.

It clearly results that a great excitement prevails, that the dissatisfaction extends to both Christians and Mussulmans, and that there are serious motives of complaint. But with the exception of the expected arrival of Lazes, there is no apparent motive of recent date of sufficient importance to account for the sudden decision taken by a great portion of the Christian population to emigrate to Russia.

It is strange that, while the only motive assigned from Ordoo for the exodus of Christians is the Laz immigration, it is distinctly stated from Boulanjik, not more than 15 miles distant, that this same motive is used as a mere pretext, and, indeed, the specified cases of outrage and robbery which have hitherto been reported from Ordoo as having been perpetrated by Lazes, are not of a character to explain the general disposition for emigration of the Christian population.

I believe that the real cause is the complete disorganization which prevails throughout the Empire.

In fact, oppression on the part of local magnates, total want of protection against vexations, insecurity for life and property, maladministration in all the branches of the service, together with the poverty into which the populations have been thrown by stagnation in trade, agricultural distress, the withdrawal of the caïmé, the depreciation of the silver and copper coin, coupled with the prospect of further burdens and dangers connected with the immigration of Lazes, and above all the hopelessness of a near-at-hand amelioration in their present condition, are more than sufficient motives to justify the great dissatisfaction which has of late prevailed in this province, and the source of which is in the capital.

In spite of all this, however, though it is probable that some families might have emigrated, an exodus on the proportions of the impending one could hardly be possible if the idea had not been propagated among the Christians in this province. And the fact that this disposition on the part of the population has suddenly sprung up (for a

month and a-half ago, when the Greek Archbishop was at Kerassond he had not detected the slightest signs of similar intentions), strengthens the presumption that Russia, who has all interest in the matter, finding the ground so well prepared, has easily promoted and encouraged the present movement for emigration.

Besides, that which now takes place is nothing but the repetition of what occurred after the Crimean war, and the emigration of Circassians from Russia.

As I am about to close my despatch I learn from the Greek Archbishop that last night he received a telegram from Kerassond, informing him that the preceding day seventy Greek families from Boulandjik and Bazarsoöi, had clandestinely departed for Russia without passports, and that other families were about to charter sailing craft for the same purpose.

If Russia is a stranger to the emigration, she will certainly deal with these fugitives as she did with the Abazian emigrants who wanted to return home, and as she is invariably doing with all travellers who, without passports duly *visé* by her Consuls, try to land on Russian territory in the Black Sea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Earl Granville.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 19.)
My Lord, *Smyrna, May* 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 45.)
Sir, *Smyrna, May* 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Excellency's information, a letter, with translation, from his Beatitude the Gregorian Armenian Bishop of Sivas, forwarding a project of reforms prepared by the Armenian Temporal Council of Sivas.

I had on more than one occasion, when discussing the measures which should be taken to ameliorate the condition of the Armenian community, requested that the wishes of the Armenians might be expressed in writing, but the inclosed letter and document were only placed in my hands a few days before my departure from Sivas.

In transmitting the Bishop's letter, with its inclosure, I would beg to offer the following observations on the project of reforms, taking the paragraphs in order and observing that in the Vilayet of Sivas the so-called Turkish or indigenous population is five-eighths of the whole; the Circassian, Kurd, Avshâar, &c., element one-eighth, and the Christian population, including Gregorian, Roman Catholic, and Protestant Armenians, and Greeks, one-fourth.

1. This paragraph is really equivalent to a request that the short-lived Ottoman Parliament should be called together again, and I think few who have had the opportunity of studying the course of events in the provinces, and ascertaining the wishes of the people would deny that, if such a measure were possible, it would be extremely popular, and greatly expedite the introduction of reforms. When it is remembered that the Members of the late Parliament were the nominees of the Governors-General, it is surprising that, on occasion, they spoke out so openly. Since that time the state of affairs has greatly changed; every intelligent Moslem, unconnected with the Government, as well as every educated Christian that I have spoken to in the provinces, is bitterly hostile to the present system of misrule, and thoroughly imbued with the feeling that unless radical and sweeping reforms are introduced at an early date the Ottoman Empire must fall to pieces. Men called up to a Parliament in such a frame of mind would insist upon reform with a voice that could not be denied. It seems, however, to be generally understood that Parliament will never be called together again during the reign of the present Sultan, and that any proposal to do so would be vigorously opposed by the fanatical section of those who hold power at

Stamboul; the very men whose actions would be called in question. The laws or instructions promulgated last year for the guidance of the Court of Justice have printed on them the proviso that they are only valid till they have been submitted to, and sanctioned by, Parliament.

2. The question of representation in Parliament is a difficult one; the Christian population of the vilayet is only one-fourth of the whole, and a very small proportion of it can be considered to have any education. The mass of the Christian population is rural, and the villagers, whether Armenian or Greek, are, except perhaps in the fact of their being Christians, no higher in the scale of civilization than their Moslem neighbours. The Christian urban population is, on the other hand, far superior as regards education, to the Moslem. The demand of the minority for equal representation in an Imperial Parliament, however one might wish to see it under existing conditions, seems hardly admissible.

3. In the Sivas vilayet no less than six distinct languages, besides several dialects, are spoken, and, except that the Armenians are more numerous than the other communities, there seems no reason why the laws should be translated into Armenian and not into Greek, Kurdish, or Circassian. On the other hand every one understands Turkish, which is the official language, and only a small minority of the Armenians who live in the towns can read and write Armenian. I cannot but sympathize with the efforts which the Armenians are making to introduce their national language amongst that section of the population which now speaks only Turkish, whilst at the same time I think it is to be regretted that more encouragement is not given to the study of the Turkish language which is so necessary to those who intend to enter Government employ. The tendency of the Armenian movement is towards separation whereas it would, in my opinion, be wiser to prepare the people for taking that position in the Empire which must fall to them in course of time from their superior education. In the Sivas vilayet, a translation of the orders into Armenian, however much it might gratify the national vanity, would at present be of little real practical value to the people.

4. I do not think the proposal to constitute the Court of Appeal of the vilayet, the Court of Appeal for all the Courts of First Instance, would simplify matters or expedite the course of justice, unless the whole procedure of the Courts were changed and the status of the lower Courts were improved. The existing system, bad as it is, is preferable.

5. The suggestion that the President of the Commercial Court should always be a Christian merchant is a very fair and proper one; the commerce in the country is almost entirely in the hands of the Christians, and it would be difficult to find men more ignorant of commercial transactions or of the Commercial Code than the Moslem Presidents of these Courts.

6. I quite agree in the necessity of modifying the clause in the new Regulations alluded to, so as to allow of appeal in cases involving 2,000 piastres. 5,000 piastres may be a small sum in Constantinople, but it is a very large one in the provinces. The effect of the new Regulations has been to increase the powers of the Courts of First Instance, whilst decreasing the number of members.

7. The appointment of a certain proportion of Christian Judges and Public Prosecutors is almost essential, especially in districts where there is a large Christian population; and it is equally important that some Christian clerks be appointed to the Courts.

8. The old Courts of First Instance consisted of the Cadi as President, and four members—two Moslem and two non-Moslem. The new Regulations reduced the number of members to two—one Moslem, one Christian, and at the same time increased the powers of the Courts. The change has had a most injurious effect on the interests of the Christian communities; formerly the two Christian members supported each other when mixed cases came before the Court; now it is difficult to find a Christian independent enough to assert himself in the presence of the Moslem majority; and if the Christian member happens to be ill, everything is decided by the Moslem President and member. A return to the old constitution of the Courts is much needed.

9. Under the present system of administering justice, it rests almost entirely with the Mustantik whether a man be convicted or not; and though the proposal to associate a Christian with a Moslem Mustantik in every Court is impracticable, some change is absolutely necessary if the Christians are to obtain any justice. The whole tendency of the new Regulations seems to me to render it more difficult for a Christian to obtain justice. Perhaps some arrangement which would ensure the presence of a Christian member of the Court when the Mustantik is taking depositions in a case in which a Christian is concerned would answer the purpose.

10. The baneful influence which local Notables exercise over the provincial Courts is well known, but the difficulty is one which can only be met by the appointment of officials of independent character, men who could act with the knowledge that they would be loyally supported by the Porte in their efforts to free themselves from local influences.

11. This is very necessary.

12. the law directs that Ilams ("sentences") in districts inhabited by Armenians, should be translated into Armenian, but I have never heard of an instance in which it has been carried out.

13. The fees are much too high, and should be reduced. They have had no effect upon bribery, and are merely an additional tax on litigants. A peasant who is nearly starving cannot afford to pay 5 piastres for a petition, and the consequence is that legal redress for robbery or other injury is beyond his means. To recover a sum of 1,000 piastres an expenditure of 500 piastres is necessary, in addition to bribes.

14. The proposal to place beside every administrative official in the vilayet a Christian assistant is one that could only be carried out with the greatest difficulty. It would not be easy to find Moslems and Christians who would work cordially together for the public good; they would become heads of opposing cliques and centres of local intrigues; it would be far better to try and obtain the appointment of a certain proportion of Christian Governors-General, Lieutenant-Governors, and Governors. It is very desirable that the Porte should be urged to grant Christians their fair share of all classes of Government employ instead of excluding them from it; at Sivas the only Christians in the service of Government are the engineer of the vilayet, the clerk in charge of the international telegraph, and the cashiers of the vilayet and Town Council.

15. The Administrative Councils are now swamped by the number of Turkish officials who are *ex-officio* members, and some change in their organization is necessary, but I do not think the proposed arrangement would answer.

16. There is already in each vilayet a Provincial Council for the consideration of local matters, which should, by law, be called together once a-year. When it does assemble the great difficulty is to get the members to transact any real business; they are all too full of their private interests, and of schemes to obtain Government employment for their friends. The feeling that these Provincial Councils become mere centres of intrigue and gossip leads most intelligent men to dislike them, and wish for the re-assembly of the Imperial Parliament.

17. It is very necessary that this should be carried out; without it there can be no good Government.

18. This suggestion has been partially adopted in the Sivas vilayet, but I have not yet had an opportunity of hearing the measure of success which has attended it.

19 to 22. With the exception of the proposals that evildoers and their protectors should be banished, which would raise some difficult questions, and that the Local Government should indemnify people who are robbed for their losses, the suggestions under the heading "Sécurité du Pays," paragraphs 19 to 21, are very reasonable and necessary, and the same may be said of those contained in paragraph 22, "La Gendarmerie."

23 to 29. The measures proposed under the headings "Travaux et Instruction Publics," paragraphs 23 to 28, and "Les Prisons," paragraph 29, are worthy of the most attentive consideration of the Porte; they are all necessary, and if introduced would increase the prosperity of the country, and be acceptable to all classes of the population.

The demands of the Armenians of Sivas are, on the whole, temperate, and most of the suggestions are quite practicable. I fear, however, that no measures, however good they may be in themselves, will be of any avail until competent and honest officials can be found to superintend their introduction. Under the present system of administration this is impossible.

The only hope of introducing real reforms into Asia Minor is to form a Commission, composed almost entirely of Europeans, which should have power to dismiss summarily, and without appeal, all officials, from the Valis and Cadis to the junior clerks in the Government Offices, who are found guilty of misconduct.

There is nothing which the Turkish officials dread so much as dismissal from office; and the knowledge that any misbehaviour would be promptly punished in this way would have a very great and beneficial effect upon their conduct.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 191.

The Bishop of Sivas to Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.

Excellency, *Sivas,* January 31/February 12, 1880.

I PRESENT herewith to your Excellency a project of reforms which has been prepared by the Temporal Council of our National Assembly.

After studying it your Excellency will see that each of the propositions is a principle of law, and we feel joyous to hope that, through the kind favour of the British Government, the lover of mankind and of liberty, and of the Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, we shall have the good fortune to see their execution.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) BEDROS, *Bishop of Sivas.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 191.

Project of Reforms prepared by the Armenian Temporal Council of Sivas.

I.—*Stricte Exécution des Lois.*

LE système Gouvernemental de la Turquie étant déjà constitutionnel, toute loi qui ne porte pas la sanction du Parlement Central ne soit jamais mise en vigueur.

2. Les Députés Chrétions et Musulmans qui doivent représenter notre vilayet dans le Parlement à Constantinople soient en nombre égal.

3. Toutes lois, ordonnances, et ordres qui se rapportent au peuple, soient aussi publiés en langue Arménienne.

II.—*Tribunaux.*

4. L'Istinaf ("Cour d'Appel") de notre vilayet soit composé de huit membres Chrétiens et Musulmans en nombre égal; d'un Président et d'un Vice-Président, et en cas où le premier est Musulman, le second soit Chrétien, ou *vice-versâ*; et que ce Tribunal soit la Cour d'Appel centrale pour tous les Bedayets ("Tribunal de Première Instance") du vilayet, de même que pour les Tribunaux du Commerce.

5. Vu que les procès portés devant le Tribunal du Commerce sont généralement des procès des Chrétiens, il est indispensable que le Président de ce Tribunal soit un négociant Chrétien.

6. L'Article des nouvelles lois qui ne permet d'appel que les procès au-dessus de 5,000 piastres, soit modifié, et que les procès au-dessus de 2,000 piastres puissent être permis d'appel.

7. En cas où les Présidents des Tribunaux sont Musulmans, les Vice-Présidents doivent être Chrétiens ou *vice-versâ*; de même pour le Muddai Oumoumi ("Procureur-Général") et son Mouavin ("Assistant").

8. Que chaque Bedayet Mahkémé ("Tribunal de Première Instance") soit composé de quatre membres Chrétiens et Musulmans en nombre égal.

9. Auprès du Mustantik ("Interrogateur") Musulman, poste nouvellement créé, il est nécessaire qu'il se trouve un autre Mustantik Chrétien du même pouvoir et de traitement.

10. Les personnes reconnues par le peuple comme des oppresseurs ne soient, non-seulement jamais portées à la candidature d'aucun poste, mais encore il est très-urgent de prendre toutes les mesures efficaces pour empêcher leurs influences qui cherchent à exercer sur l'autorité locale.

11. Le Medjellé, qui n'est autre que la traduction en Turque du Chériat, soit entièrement gardé pour les causes des Musulmans, et que les procès entre Chrétiens et Musulmans soient traités toujours par le Nizam.

12. Les copies des Ilams ("sentences") et autres pièces judiciaires, qui doivent être communiquées aux Chrétiens, pour être intelligibles et lisibles, soient rédigées en leurs langues, sinon, au moins en leurs caractères.

13. Les dépens judiciaires prescrits dans les nouvelles lois étant énormes, il faut qu'ils soient réduits d'une manière à être accessible au peuple.

III.—*Le Vali et les Fonctionnaires.*

14. Il est indispensable qu'il y ait, auprès du Vali, un Mouavin ("Assistant"), et si le premier est un Musulman le second soit Chrétien; le même principe pour les Mutessarifs et Caïmacams.

15. Le Medjlissi Idaré ("Conseil d'Administration") soit composé des membres Chrétiens et Musulmans en nombre égal; le chef spirituel de la communauté Chrétienne dominante et le Mufti Musulman aient le titre de membre perpétuel, aucun autre fonctionnaire excepté le Vali et son Mouavin, ne soit admis à participer aux délibérations de ce Conseil.

16. Sous la présidence du Vali ou de son Mouavin un Conseil-Général provincial soit institué, de quarante membres Chrétiens et Musulmans en nombre égal, les membres Chrétiens soient élus par les nationalités Chrétiennes et les Musulmans par la nationalité Musulmane. Ce Conseil soit convoqué chaque année à tenir la session durant quarante jours et en cas de besoin deux mois.

Il sera du pouvoir et du prérogative de ce Conseil:—

(1.) De nommer les membres de tous les Tribunaux suivant les dispositions des Articles précédents; de les surveiller, recevoir les plaintes contre ces membres, les juger, destituer, et récompenser suivant leurs actions;

(2.) De délibérer sur les questions du progrès de l'instruction publique, de l'agriculture, du commerce, et des travaux publics à exécuter dans le vilayet.

(3.) De préparer un budget du vilayet et d'envoyer à Constantinople pour soumettre à l'approbation du Parlement.

Toutes délibérations de ce Conseil-Général doivent être faites en scrutin secret.

Que les membres de ce Conseil aient des traitements raisonnables.

17. Il est urgent de retenir la somme nécessaire pour l'administration intérieure du vilayet sur ses revenus et de laisser le reste à la disposition du Malié.

IV.—*Taxes et Impôts.*

18. Tous les impôts et taxes étant placés sous un principe d'unification, soient perçus par des receveurs honnêtes et bien payés; les receveurs des villages Chrétiens soient des Chrétiens. Aucun impôt et taxe, quelqu'il soit, qui ne porte pas la sanction du Parlement ne doit être perçu.

V.—*Sécurité du Pays.*

19. Les Circassiens, les Kurds, et les gens de cette catégorie soient complétement désarmés; les malfaiteurs qui se trouvent dans le pays et leurs protecteurs soient exclus du vilayet, et l'Angaria ("la corvée") exercée de la part des autorités, des zaptiés et autres officiers, sur les villageois soit complétement abolie, et le Gouvernement n'ait aucun droit de subjuguer les paysans à transporter des céréales et autres en temps de l'occupation agricole et en époque inopportune.

20. En vue de la sécurité publique, des corps de garde soient établis sur les chemins dangereux et dans les quartiers des villes; l'autorité soit obligée de trouver les voleurs dans un délai décidé préalablement, et le dit délai passé sans résultat, d'indemniser des dommages soufferts.

21. Pendant leurs voyages les zaptiés et autres officiers ne puissent pas se fournir gratuitement et par force les vivres, dans les villages, soit pour eux soit pour leurs chevaux.

VI.—*La Gendarmerie.*

22. Pour maintenir la sécurité publique il est urgent d'organiser un système efficace de gendarmerie; les officiers et les gendarmes soient choisis, en nombre égal, parmi les Chrétiens et Musulmans; pour ne pas donner lieu à des corruptions quelconques il est nécessaire qu'ils reçoivent des traitements raisonnables et satisfaisants.

VII.—*Travaux et Instruction Publics.*

23. Établir des voies de communication, principalement celles des centres commerciaux; créer dans chaque ville des postes de télégraphes et des lettres.

24. Consacrer le 20 pour cent des revenus du vilayet à l'instruction et aux travaux publics.

25. Pour ne pas gaspiller l'argent consacré à la construction des routes, comme il a été jusqu'à présent, il sera bien de laisser la construction à des Compagnies sous des conditions possibles.

26. Pour sauvegarder les forêts de la destruction et du ravage, il est indispensable de prendre des mesures efficaces à ce sujet; en vue d'ouvrir des champs, la mise en feu des forêts soit interdite sous de grandes peines.

27. Le Bélédié ("Conseil Municipal") soit composé des membres Chrétiens et Musulmans en nombre égal, et le Président soit toujours un négociant; consacrer les revenus du Bélédié seulement à l'embellissement et à la propreté des villes.

28. Etablir, sous la direction d'un Conseil de l'Instruction Publique, des Colléges dans toutes les villes du vilayet.

VIII.—*Les Prisons.*

29. La construction des prisons se trouve, au point de vue de l'hygiène, dans un état défavorable; il est d'urgence d'en établir des nouvelles sous de meilleures conditions de santé. Séparer les prisons des créanciers de celles des malfaiteurs et criminels.

Avoir des prisons spéciales pour les jeunes garçons.

Monseigneur,

Nous avons l'honneur de présenter à votre Béatitude le Rapport succinct des réformes pour le vilayet Sivas, que notre communauté désirerait voir être mises en vigueur.

Le Président du Conseil d'Administration Civil,
(Signé) ARTIN BAGALIAN.
Vice-Président,
AJOP CHAHINIAN.

Secrétaire,
(Signé) STEFAN TAVITTIAN.
Sivas, le 23 Janvier, 1880.

Inclosure 4 in No. 191.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 46.)

Sir, *Smyrna, May* 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to draw your Excellency's attention to the demoralizing effect of the instructions recently issued by the Finance Minister that officials in the provinces are not to draw their salaries until further notice. I understand that this extraordinary order was due to the threatening attitude assumed by the unpaid officials, pensioners, and contractors at Constantinople. The fear of an *émeute* led the Porte to suspend the payment of officials in the provinces that more money might be available for expenditure in the capital, and this at a time when, in nearly every vilayet in Anatolia, if there be not actual famine, there is great distress, and all the necessaries of life are at famine prices.

I cannot describe the position in which the officials are placed better than in the words of one of them who spoke frankly to me on the subject. He said, "My salary was barely sufficient to live upon. Six months ago it was reduced 10 per cent.; it has since been reduced 30 per cent. and I have to subscribe to a pension fund, from which, if I died, my widow would derive no benefit. For two months I have received no pay, and I am ordered to draw none till further orders. I have no private means, and have a wife and family to support. What can I do? I cannot starve."

The same official, when spoken to about robberies which had occurred in his district, replied, "I know there are robberies, and would be glad to put an end to them, but my police force is insufficient, and the members of it are unpaid. The robbers are moreover, protected by local Notables, and if I were to do anything they would send a petition against me to the Governor-General, when I should probably be summarily

dismissed without an official inquiry. I am unable to buy another place, and cannot afford to offend the Notables."

One gentleman, a Greek Christian who had filled the position of Assistant Public Prosecutor at Manisa, to the satisfaction of every one, told me that he had resigned his appointment in consequence of the reduction of his salary from 2,000 piastres (17*l.* 8*s.*) per month to 1,400 piastres (12*l.* 3*s.*) which was not sufficient to live upon without taking bribes. Many others would, I have no doubt, followed his example were they in a position to do so.

The Porte virtually tells the officials in the provinces: we cannot pay you, and, in order to gain a livelihood, you must take bribes and rob the starving peasantry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 192.

Vice-Consul Jago to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Damascus, May 15, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship a regretable incident which occurred at Homs, in the Mutessariflik of Hamah, on the 8th instant.

From the best but scanty information which has been allowed to reach here, it would seem that a party of native Christians of Homs, of the Greek Orthodox rite, returning to their homes from the usual eastern pilgrimage to the convent of St. George in the vicinity, sought entrance to the town about 5 P.M.

On account, however, of their approach being accompanied by discharges of fowling pieces in the air, as is the custom throughout Syria with natives of this faith on all occasions of local pilgrimages during Easter, the authorities closed the gates, refused admittance, and sent zaptiehs to disarm them. A scuffle took place between the zaptiehs and the pilgrims, and became of such importance as to warrant the authorities in their estimation in calling in the assistance of the few military stationed there, when the pilgrims were fired upon, resulting in one Christian being killed, three others dangerously and severally slightly wounded. It is stated that one soldier or zaptieh was killed; but this report is not confirmed, nor is that also of the soldiers using the bayonet.

Homs is governed by a Kaïmakam, one Achmet Bey, an Aleppine, the military being under the command of a Binbashee.

Although Homs (three days easy march north-west of Damascus) is in direct telegraphic communication with Damascus and elsewhere, no private message was allowed to be sent thence, and the vilayet was only officially informed of the occurrence on the 11th instant, three days afterwards; while the mail from Homs, which arrived here on the night of the 13th, was found to be extremely small, and the few private letters from Christians there which came to hand contained no mention of the matter, a fact which would seem to show the terrorism which existed.

Midhat Pasha, who is now at Acre on a tour of inspection, having been informed from Damascus of the event, has, I believe, telegraphed to Achmet Effendi 'Abaza, the Mutessarif of Hamah (five hours from Homs), to proceed to Homs and investigate the matter, while Mohammed Said Effendi, Kaïmakam of the Bekaa, a capable and honest man, leaves to-morrow, with four agents of Damascene police, (three Christian and one Moslem), for Homs, to make an official investigation on the part of the vilayet.

I may mention that this custom of the native Christians of the Greek persuasion, when going to and returning in large bodies from local pilgrimages of firing off broadsides of fowling pieces in commemoration of Easter whenever they approach a village or town, has been long and very properly prohibited by the authorities, but, so far as my personal experience goes of the rural and thinly-settled districts of Inland Syria, with little or no effect. In Damascus the other night the usual firing of pistols and fowling pieces went on in the court of the Greek church, despite the orders of the authorities, and although the chief of the police was present, he did not deem it

prudent to make arrests in the presence of an otherwise timorous out, under the circumstances, excited mob. The ease with which the practice could be stopped in a place where identification is so easy, by taking down names with a view to fining those who contravene the regulations, does not, however, seem to have been as yet recognized by the authorities.

The conduct of the civil and military authorities of Homs in finding no other way of enforcing a municipal law than by firing upon a body of inoffensive pilgrims at the door of their homes will, I trust, be adequately punished. I am glad to be able to acquaint your Lordship that, calling to-day on the local authorities, ample evidence was afforded me of the importance attached to the matter by the civil authorities both in regard to its particular merits as well as the bad impression they see it will naturally produce abroad.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 193.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 26, 1880.*

IN his telegram No. 253 of the 23rd instant, Sir Henry Layard informs me that Captain Clayton reports that the Kurds are committing fresh ravages and murders, and that great terror prevails amongst the population.

I have to request that your Excellency will call the very serious attention of the Porte to these proceedings, which require to be promptly suppressed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 194.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 520.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 17, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two Reports addressed to me by Lieutenant Chermside. Before leaving this Embassy, I perform a pleasant duty in calling your Lordship's special attention to the zeal, activity, and intelligence displayed by this young officer in the various missions with which he has been intrusted, and I venture to think that your Lordship will find that he will prove a very valuable public servant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 104.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 4.)

Sir, *Kharput, April 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, the following observations regarding the country I have been travelling through during the past quarter.

This Report confines itself to the actual condition of the population and the country. It contains none of the statistics and detailed information I have considered it my duty to collect as far as lay in my power, nor any information as to the topographical features of the country. These, which include Road Reports, Reconnaissance Reports, and sketches of all the country from Aleppo to Mosul, and from Mosul to Kharput, are notes which will form an exceedingly detailed and voluminous Report, the preparation of which will require a long time, and which it is impossible to prepare now, as in the case of my travels during the past year in the Aleppo Vilayet. On receipt of instructions to do so, I shall be at any time prepared to furnish detailed statistical, military, and topographical Reports on these regions; but were I to attempt their working out while travelling, it would be at the expense of the local information, in acquiring which I deem it best to spend the period of my halts.

I have not judged it expedient to write or telegraph to your Excellency on the subject of the scarcity and famine from which all the southern Asiatic provinces of the Turkish Empire are suffering, as there are Representatives of the British Government in all the districts in which I have been travelling, to whom I have given such information as was likely to prove of interest or service to them. Besides this, matters have, I fear, gone too far, and precautionary measures been so generally neglected, that want of communications renders it impossible to undertake at this time any but very partial measures of alleviation and relief. The sunny rainless spring of last year, and its natural sequence, a very indifferent crop over a very extensive area, indicated, no less clearly than similar drought in India, the almost inevitable consequence of great scarcity. The abundance in certain districts, such as Adana, favoured by the enhanced price of grain due to scarcity in the interior, merely added a profitable incentive to the ordinary export trade, while in the interior the reckless sale of the Government stores at comparatively low prices could hardly be stigmatized as other than criminal folly, if it be not borne in mind that the pressing needs of the central Imperial Treasury, and the numerous "havalés," or drafts on the provincial Treasuries, can in many cases, most probably, have left the local Governors no option but to realize at once. What might have been done by energetic and provident Governors it is too late now to enlarge upon. Your Excellency must know better than I the improvidence and unreadiness to accept responsibility or to suggest on their own initiative of Turkish Governors, and must be well aware of what insignificant proportions are such remedial measures as have been taken by Governors-General such as Izzet Pasha at Diarbekir, even when fully forewarned.

The district between Aleppo and Birejik is a bare, fertile, rather populous plain, inhabited by Turkmens, Arab-speaking Turkmens, and sedentary Arabs. It is not a well-watered district; on the west there is the Aleppo stream, on the east the Euphrates, and through the north of it runs the Sajur. The villages, no longer compact inclosures, as west of Aleppo and south towards Damascus, consist of mud hovels—low, flat-roofed structures of sun-dried bricks; and to the south, where wood is not procurable, of dwellings each of whose small chambers has a domed roof, such villages at a distance having the appearance of a cluster of large beehives. Already, in January, the scarcity of food and forage was quite abnormal, the scanty stock of fuel—mostly the sun-dried dung of animals—already extremely scarce and dear. The severity of the present winter, for it still continues, is quite unprecedented in the experience or even the traditions of the inhabitants, utterly unaccustomed to and unprepared for such as they are, the result has been an enormous amount of human suffering, and a destruction of live stock, for which there was no winter store of forage, that in many places is almost total. Away to the south no better news comes from the desert, where the suffering has been intense, and the loss of stock, there the only possession of its proprietors, at present beyond calculation. The scarcity at Deiraud, in the desert Province of Zor, that at Aleppo, and the disturbances consequent thereon, your Excellency is probably well aware of. Across the Euphrates I passed backwards and forwards (for I was engaged in topographical work) through a district inhabited by Kurds and Kurdo-Arabs. Here, from want of timber, as in the

Bab Caza, the houses have all the dome-shaped beehive roof of clay, and many are merely small chambers excavated in the ground, roofed over as described. The villages are smaller than those to the west of the river, more hamlets of ten to twenty dwellings, each consisting of two or more of the dome-roofed chambers. They are distinctly more miserable than those to the west of the great river. The country is one bare, treeless, undulating stretch of corn-land, but scantily watered, except in a few such localities as the great plain of Seruj, where the villages must number over 200. The food of the villagers consists principally of grain, butter, and water. Vegetables are only cultivated in infinitesimal quantities; there are no fruit or other trees in the villages as to the west of the river; the water supply is also, as there, principally from wells. The system of taxation, its amount, mode of collection, in fine, the heavy burden of mismanagement that seems to annihilate all spirit of initiative, protracted effort, progress, or improvement, has already reduced the people to such a state that the famine is more apathetically accepted than I could have imagined possible. The poverty and squalor of the inhabitants is extreme. The scarcity in January was here more accentuated than to the west. The black tent winter encampments, mostly near the river, are distinguished by greater well-being, more "yorghans," cushions, clothes, pots and pans, &c., but the possessions being in a great measure in flocks and herds, the proportionate loss will be even greater north of the Birejik-Urfa road. The villages are better, and many of them are flat-roofed with timber, brought from across the Euphrates. Howek, Milh Serai, Jallach, are the principal of these; the latter has over 200 houses. The flocks of some near the river had been sent north instead of south; and not only, strangely enough, has the winter in places in the Taurus been milder than further south, but the branches and leaves of the low oak scrub supply food. To the east it is the same as near Seruj, on as far as the ruined walled town of Harran, now desolate and ruined from want of water, but still showing traces of former cultivation and comparative prosperity. In the plain of Urfa the villages appear more flourishing, and being in possession of a provision of grain, there is rather scarcity than famine. In Urfa itself there was great scarcity and dearness at the end of January, and grain was already 400 piastres the kilé, or nearly eight times its usual price.

Along the southern or desert route to Mardin the villages situated on the extreme northern edge of the desert seem fairly supplied with grain—dear, of course, owing to the prevalent scarcity. The people here are some Kurds, some Arab-speaking; the most important tribe are the pastoral Millis, who speak both Kurdish and Arabic. I have heard that they are of Turkmen origin. They formerly paid for protection, and the right to graze in the desert to the Shammar Arabs. South of this, for a long distance, the desert was at this time of the year uninhabited and untenanted, except by a few flocks here and there, recently moved down from the highlands, many of which undoubtedly perished in the severe weather before they could be moved further south. Some of the flocks which were moved on as far as Hit, on the Euphrates, only lost half their numbers. On the northern route from Urfa, that vit Suwarek, the inhabitants are mostly Kurds, though the district between the two routes is inhabited by the Millis and a Kurdish-speaking tribe, the Kara Keehis, most of whom live in tents, and lead a pastoral life.

South of Suwarek, and along this route, the dialect used is the Kurmanju Kurdish. Towards the Euphrates, and north of it, the Kurds are Zazas, *i.e.*, at Aktcha Dagh, Kiachta, near Matatia, Gergor, and even south of the river as far as Tchermuk. The villages on, and north of the road, are poor and almost ruined, but the dwellings larger, flat-roofed, and a little superior to those to the south; the scarcity continues gradually increasing to the eastward. After passing the Karaja Dagh the Diarbekir plain is entered; the villages here are also of unbaked bricks, and poverty and destitution universal. Between Karabagtcha, 30 miles east-north-east of Suwarek, and Mardin lie the Karaja Dagh, and the Jebel Afz, a sort of scarped rocky barrier rising over 1,000 feet above the Mesopotamian plain.

The highlands are a tract intersected with limestone and basaltic ravines, and, except in the south-east portion, are not well watered. There is a good deal of scrub and dwarf oak here, the galls of which are exported, and the acorns made into bread. In the Jebel Afz district, near Deyrek, the Christians up to this point principally confined to the towns, and for the most part Armenian, are Jacobites; many carry arms. They suffer much from their Kurdish neighbours; some of the principal Aghas were last year exiled. There are a few Christian villages on the north of the Mesopotamian plain. Of the scarcity at Diarbekir, and the high price of grain, the removal and reimposal of the prohibition to export grain, which so paralyzed commerce, and

the very partial measures of relief caused by a sale of bread in the town at a fixed price, I need not speak, as Major Trotter will have fully informed your Excellency. East and north-east from Diarbekir, the great plain inhabited by Kurdish lowlanders (Kurmanji) and Christians, stretches nearly to Sert. There are many villages on the banks of the Tigris singularly treeless, and dreary assemblages of hovels, in spite of the natural advantages of their situation. Here there is great scarcity, though not, in my opinion, famine, although it may soon become so. From the outlying villages of the Redwan Caza, Tul, &c., deaths from starvation are reported. I can only state that in the end of February I passed through the districts Girik, Khop, Redwan, Avta, Tul, &c., and could always find a feed for the horses, which is far from being the case further south.

In the end of March, although the scarcity was greater, it could not compare to that further south, but as the mountains are approached, either east or north, it becomes worse. Mifarkeyn, or Silwan, a small town with magnificent ruins, on a once famous site, is suffering severely. At Hini, just south of the gap formed by the great historical pass, it is worse still, and there are actual cases of starvation. Hazru and Ilidja, small towns situated at the head of a very fertile plain, were not quite so bad, but wheat is at 55 piastres the kilé.

The line from Tehermuk, along past Hini, *i.e.*, about that at the base of the foot-hills of the Taurus, gives about the southern limit of the Zaza-speaking Kurds, who in the Dersim, &c., are a large majority. Zaza and Kurmanji Kurdish are apparently distinct languages.

South of the Tigris comes the Midiad district and the Jebel Tur (Mons Masius). Here, while dreariness is general, the distress is unequally distributed. The district is inhabited by Kurmanji Kurds, Jacobite Christians, and Yezidis; parts are exceedingly rocky and mountainous, others upland and plateau, fertile enough in places, but with a very scant water supply. In many villages there is a provision so that actual starvation is warded off; in many others large, fairly-built villages, with trees and gardens in cases. Out of upwards of 200 houses, as at Azekh, Bassabini, &c., only twenty to thirty families remain, the rest having migrated to Diarbekir and other places in search of food. Others have suffered, and are wholly or partially ruined from their internecine feuds, the attacks of Khurshid Bey, the Mardin Mutessarif, the oppressions and exactions of Beys, Aghas, and robbers, of which your Excellency is already aware. There are in this district numerous, large, and (in ordinary times) tolerably prosperous villages, but the famine is here more severe than in any district I have yet described. In places the bread the people are eating is made from bran and the skins of raisins of indifferent quality. At Mardin the scarcity and price of grain is much [*sic*] at Diarbekir (about 700 piastres the kilé). The Nisibin district is a degree worse; Mardin and Jezireh have both drawn supplies from Diarbekir, but distance and want of communications have left Nisibin so far to its own resources. The place, a miserable, unhealthy village rather than town, is the capital of a district of villages of sun-baked bricks, fringing the Mesopotamian plain—desert, as it is called. The majority of these are ruined, or rather deserted, for the inhabited ones are little better than ruins, exposed on the one side to the attacks of the Kurds and Yezidis of the Jebel Tur, for the latter, unlike their peaceful clansmen of the Mosul plains, have, at any rate, the reputation of being inveterate brigands and robbers; on the other, to those of the Arabs when they come up, and the Tai Arabs were just arriving when I was at Nisibin (20th March); the villagers, especially the Christians, have a very bad time of it, for the Government protection, for reasons that I will mention further on, is now but an empty name.

In February, passing from Hassan Kef to the neighbourhood of Redwan and Farkeyn, I found the villages numerous, and the population in the lowlands principally Jacobite and a few Armenians; the once numerous Yezidis are now very few in this district. Approaching the Sassun highlands Kurds become more numerous. Eastwards, towards Sert, the condition of matters had gradually been getting worse since Diarbekir, and grain was not only dearer, but scarcer. The high prices are fancy prices, and for the most part beyond the means of the villagers, whose amount of hardship depends in a great measure on the actual supply of grain they had for the winter, though their scanty money-stock has been in many cases expended as well. The out-of-the-way Kurdish town of Sert, built of stone and cement, contains (curiously enough) an Arab-speaking population. The Mutessarif, a new arrival, is well spoken of. Sert is now a sandjak of the Bitlis Vilayet; there is a battalion of soldiers there, and the authorities, unable to supply them with provisions, have asked for their removal. Eastward from Sert I did not penetrate; communication was not open with

Bitlis, but, from all I heard, there is little doubt that the famine in the mountain districts, right away to the Persian frontier, is even worse than any I have described, and is probably such as I found it in the Bohtan district. Across the Bohtan Su lies the Caza of Dehe, whose Christian inhabitants suffered such terrible outrage last year, and who complain that, in spite of the formal Government "Masbattahs" as to their compensation for losses, none is obtainable. Beyond this caza, and between it and the Tigris, lies the Caza of Hadji Bairam, or Schernach, marching on the one side with that of Amadia and the Tiyari district, on the other with Jezireh. This is a very mountainous district, the best defile through it leading past Deyr Gul, the site of the ruined fortalice of the famous Beder Khan Bey. Owing to the season, my travels in the Bohtan district were limited.

The people in the Midiad district were eating bread of acorn-flour, cotton-seed, bran, and husks, &c. The first-named is a normal product of consumption, but its present price quite abnormal, 35 piastres for a measure (ülchek) of 10 okes, or 3½ piastres per oke. Cotton-seed 2½ piastres per oke. Rich and poor alike were suffering, in one rich village only two people were eating bread made of grain, for at that time (February), *i.e.*, prior to the arrival of any rafts from Diarbekir, at various points on the Tigris there was absolutely no market where it was procurable. The Bohtan Mountains are not, as far as I have seen, well wooded; walnut, poplars, and fruit trees are found in the valleys, dwarf oak on the mountains. The houses in the village are warm and solid; the permanent population decreasing, as numerous villages shown in the itineraries of former travellers are now deserted or ruined.

At Jezireh in the end of February the scarcity was terrible; 1,100 piastres per kilé for wheat, 10 piastres per oke for rice! Owing to the representations of Baker Pasha and, I believe, those of Major Trotter, towards March rafts began to arrive. Prior to this they had been plundered in the upper part of the river, the long rocky gorge west of Hassan Kef, and it was but tardily that the Vali took steps to remedy this. The plundering, as far as Baker Pasha could learn, could not be attributed solely to the present time of distress, being of habitual recurrence. Hajo, a brigand Chief in the neighbourhood, of whom your Excellency has heard from Major Trotter, Her Majesty's Consul in Kurdistan, has remained quiet; the Christians speak well of him, and many of his men are, I am informed, Christians. A price of 100 liras has been placed on his head.

Below Jezireh there opens out a plain to the east running up to the little town of Zacho on an island in the Khabur River. This town is principally inhabited by Jews, of whom there is also a large village in the neighbourhood. The plain is mainly inhabited by Chaldeans; the villages are of flat-roofed, fairly substantial, but very dirty dwellings. The plain is well watered and very fertile; rice, cotton, sesamé, &c., are cultivated. The mountains to the north are inhabited by Kurds, whose incursions into the plain completely mar the prosperity of its villages. Besides the resident Kurds ("Guran"), descendants of the old families, whose ruined castelets (one, that of the famous Said Bey, was besieged by a force whose staff included Von Moltke), are dotted about the steep gullies leading into the mountains. The Kochers or nomad Kurds and Kurdo-Arabs who move from their "Yaila," or summer pastures in the districts to the south of Lake Van, from Shernach, &c., to the desert, cross in their migration the land between Jezireh and Zacho. What the passage of these tribes means to the villagers your Excellency is well aware.

Beyond the narrow, rugged, precipitous mountain barrier to the south of Zacho lie the great plains of Mosul, a fertile but sparsely-cultivated district, containing in the area, Zacho, Aera, Dohuk, Mosul, a large number of Christian villages, principally Chaldeans. Nearer to the river is the main cluster of Yezidi villages, which extend inland, however, nearly to Sheikh Adi. Intermixed with the villages of these last are encampments of semi-nomad Arabs and villages containing Arab-speaking population. The villages are mostly flat-roofed and of sun-baked bricks. South of the mountain barrier near Zacho, the incursions of the nomads do not seem to extend, nor, judging from a hasty visit, should I say that the Christian peasant's lot contrasts unfavourably as in other parts of Turkey from its added outrage and contumely with that of the Moslem and Yezidi, who all suffer alike from the paralyzing effects of misgovernment and oppression. This, I presume, results from the special form of Christianity that the majority profess. Your Excellency must be far better aware than I what a hotbed of Vaticanism Mosul now is, and I realized there that what I had seen at Aleppo was but a corollary of what I now saw going on in the matter of the Eastern Churches. At Mosul, as in the case of all large towns whose populations are consumers and buyers rather than producers of grain, the distress is great, very great. It was indeed the culminating point

of that I saw, and Mosul, Arbela, Kerkuk, Suleimanieh, judging from local information and the current prices, are pretty much on a par, though the wheat that is now finding its way south from Kharput and Sivas will of course bring a very unequal amount of relief, and with difficulty find its way to any district far from the Tigris, though the earlier harvest should bring relief sooner to the southern districts.

As I did not go beyond Mosul, I have no information as to the amount sown or the prospects of the crops. The position of Bagdad has naturally prevented the famine reaching the same pitch as in those localities destitute of communications. From Mosul to Nisibin the country is hardly inhabited; there are indeed but few villages to the west of the Tigris. From Prischabur, near the mouth of the Khabur River, there lies a route to Nisibin, traversing a but sparsely-populated district, one now almost totally deserted. There is water in this district in spring.

As at Diarbekir so at Mosul there is a strong presumption that large supplies of grain exist, but the merchants are holding out for higher prices. Northwards from Diarbekir I have already spoken of Hini; between Diarbekir and the mountains, the plain, 25 miles across, is not thickly populated; the villages are of flat-roofed sun-baked houses, and are both Kurdish and Armenian; Turkish is usually spoken. At Piran and Dibench, as at Hini, there is great want. Arghana, a small town, with mixed population, is comparatively well off, though the high prices and scarcity are beginning to be felt. At Palu, a small town of about the same size, there is scarcity, and some officials sent to take possession of a store of Government grain were driven off by an armed mob. Kharput is fairly well supplied; the price of grain is 90 piastres per kilé of 55 okes. The Diarbekir kilé is of 180 okes. Grain at Kharput is 2 piastres per oke, as is bread. The area of the famine, as far as I have seen and heard, appears to extend from the Giaour Dagh on the west, all along the southern slopes of the Taurus to Palu and Moosh, thence northwards into the Erzeroum Vilayet, *i.e.*, the Alisgert Plain, and a strip along to Van and the Persian frontier. From Van and Bashkala, where I am only speaking from hearsay as to the severity of the famine, it extends southwards, though I cannot speak personally as to the state of the Nestorian Mountains.

From Amadia, Dohuk, Acra, and Zacho, it extends along Eastern Kurdistan and down the Persian frontier, thence right across the desert (I have already mentioned to your Excellency what I heard as to the losses of the Tai, Obeida, Shammar, &c.), to Zor, and so to Aleppo and Antioch.

Information as to the famine in the desert is scanty, but I gathered from conversation with a Sheikh, whose people are to the south of the Sinjar Hills, that as many of the tribes took their stock of food with them to the desert, the human suffering has not been so great, the loss being principally confined to live stock. The loss of the latter has been simply enormous, as I can state from personal observation, though the exact amount cannot as yet be approximately guessed. Truffles and various bulbous roots and grapes are being eagerly sought for by the inhabitants of the towns and villages alike, and these will undoubtedly prove a great assistance in keeping body and soul together. In the Taurus the winter has not been especially severe, at any rate in parts, and live stock has not suffered in the same wholesale way as to the south. In the Boltan, too, although the losses have been considerable, I saw a great deal of of live stock, the beautiful mohair goats, especially, seeming to have escaped tolerably well. Immediately south of this, in the neighbourhood of Mosul, down to Baghdad (as I have learnt from the postal authorities), Jezireh, Mardin, Suwarek, Urfa, Seruj, not only has the loss been that of sheep and goats, but cattle, horses, and asses. In many of the post-houses there is not a single horse left. From Mosul I came a great part of the way on foot, and as far as Diarbekir could not get a single post-horse. The zaptiehs have for the most part lost their horses; in a journey of 300 miles, with zaptieh posts about each 20 miles, I only found six mounted men.

At Shernach, a caza, there is not one horseman. Westward of Nisibin this is not quite so bad.

Many of the muleteers have saved their animals by going west and working in the Aleppo district.

Speaking generally, I found the distress greatest in the large towns, poverty and pauperism are, of course, there most prevalent; the townspeople are only consumers, the villagers in the plains are generally (except weavers and handicraftsmen) producers as well as consumers; there is great distress among them, but not such as in the towns.

Next in point of severity to the towns come the mountains, where the production is very limited, and much of the population lives by migrating in summer in search

of work; the mountaineers are suffering terribly, perhaps worse than I have any idea of, for the severity of the season prevented my travels in the mountains being very extensive, and later they will suffer yet more; their stock of money is exhausted, and work will be scanty for months to come—labour cheap, provisions dear. The winter, especially in the plains, has been of exceptional severity; snow was lying near Mosul when I left in the middle of March. Here in the Kharput plain it is winter—snow, icicles round the fountains, snow on the hill-sides, and even in the streets.

The amount sown varies much in different localities, but in many the famine prices have prevented sowing. Fertile as the soil is, with the slovenly system of cultivation, a yield of one to five is about the average, and it is not worth a man's while who has wheat to sow it.

At Mosul, I gather that about half of the ordinary amount has been sown, or perhaps over half, but in some districts to the south-east much less has been sown. In the Zacho plain about the same, but approaching Jezireh, and near that place, far less—only one-twentieth; at Nisibin about one-fourth, in many parts of the Midiad district only one-third, Mardin perhaps two-thirds, away east to Urfa about the same, south-west of Urfa half, north of Urfa three-fourths, Birejik Caza two-thirds, and, roughly speaking, for the Aleppo Vilayet, two-thirds, and perhaps for that of Diarbekir rather less. Such are the figures repeated conversations—informants such as Turkish Governors, Baker Pasha, Major Trotter, villagers, &c.—have given me; they can only be very general, but leave no doubt of the fact that an enormous deficit exists in the amount sown as compared to the average. Much hope rested on the spring sowing of various kinds of quick-growing seed—millet, kizildari[?], seyfe[?], and others, but the non-appearance of spring, and the succession of gales, snow, hail, ice, and rain-storms have prevented this.

The gradual melting and continual freezing of the snow have obviated the usual beneficial effects of the snow covering, and produced that of the most bitter frosts; the crops are more backward now than they were in December, and in places the sprouting grain has been nipped and killed, in others it is not coming up at all (between Mardin and Diarbekir). I am not competent to give a technical opinion, but I gather that the prospects of a good harvest are small; the rains have come, but before the sunlight, and have been dried up by nineteen days of continuous gales, and if hot weather now comes without more rain, it will be a serious matter for the crops. In the last week of March the desert from the Sinjar Hills to Nisibin was one vast expanse of brown with hardly a blade of grass visible.

Apart from the immediate considerations of the famine, the whole extent of the country I have visited is in a most miserable condition. Not a village but has seen better days, not a village but curses the oppressive Government, not a place but too well grounded complaints pour in. The country, with all its capabilities and its magnificent climate for agriculture, is a ruin. Not a tree but the scanty scrub of the Karaja Dagh from the hills above Scanderun to Diarbekir. Villages collections of mere mud hovels in treeless plains, no fountains, no gardens, no vegetables, coarse fare, coarse clothing. From Aleppo to Diarbekir, from Diarbekir to Mosul, except a few small towns, a few wooded valleys and mountain villages, it is the same everywhere. Not a road, only the ruins of those of the ancients, marking with wonderful clearness by their noble bridges, ruins, and causeway the great natural arteries once the main thoroughfares of a rich noble land, now only followed by little-frequented bridle-paths, or the more modern ruins of those roads the outcome of the brief fruitless spurt of reform of a few years since. Hardly a Government building that is not partly ruined within or without. Ruined bridges, ruined barracks, ruined villages and towns, and a decreasing permanent population, a nomad one increasing at any rate in the proportion of its numbers.

The zaptieh force is in a terrible state; of that at Aleppo, the reformed force for the sandjak, your Excellency has already heard. At Urfa and in its wide district they are unclothed (three years, I think), and upwards of a year in arrears of pay, rations for the horses, and in part for the men, had been cut off owing to scarcity of grain.

At Diarbekir, Baker Pasha inspected the force. Badly clothed, unpaid, without ideas of discipline or organization, it is impossible, he says, to exaggerate its unsatisfactory condition. At Veranshehr, a Caza of Zor, the men, unpaid and unrationed, were actually armed with flint-lock guns. The general arm in the Aleppo and Diarbekir Vilayets is a muzzle-loading carbine, for which the men often possess no ammunition. At Mardin, at Sort, Jezireh, Midiad, Nisibin (no arms but swords), Nahrwan, Dohuk, Zacho, Tel Adin Semiel, Mosul, it is all one, the same story, arrears

of pay, generally from five to fifteen months, rations discontinued for the horses owing to the scarcity, and partially or totally discontinued for the men. In the Mosul district the mounted men have, in a great majority of instances, lost their horses. The Bagdad zaptiehs are in uniform and armed with the Winchester, but, except a few in Mosul, Diarbekir, Aleppo, and Kharput, all the rest I have seen are in private clothes, many having had no uniform for four years. Without exception, every zaptieh with whom I have conversed during my recent somewhat extensive journey has cursed his Government and officers. The higher grade officers are usually paid, and besides, plunder the men in the matters of clothing, pay, and rations; like the enormous majority of Turks, they are good plausible talkers.

One of the points that cannot fail to strike any one travelling over a considerable extent of the country is, that not only is a reorganization and the practical definition of a gendarme's duties a necessity, but also a considerable increment of numbers, though undoubtedly a deficiency in the latter respect can be counteracted in a fashion by well maintained military posts, still soldiers are neither gendarmes nor police. At present, not only are the mounted men engaged in orderly duties, escorting and carrying posts, escorting travellers, collecting taxes, &c., and the unmounted men in guarding prisons, Government buildings, furnishing town guards, officials' servants, &c., but the force is numerically ridiculously inadequate to the requirements of the country.

The knowledge of the nominal unsubstantial nature of the power of the Local Governments succeeds in producing a feeling of insecurity, perhaps hardly warranted by the actual state of the country. In many parts of the country the authority of the Government is exceedingly shadowy. At Semiel, near Mosul, Dohuk, Zacho, Haji Bairan, Shernach, even Jezireh, the Governors and officials allow that they can neither enforce the taxes, the conscription, or in any way deal effectively with the local questions constantly occurring.

At Nisibin it is the same; at Michad and Hassan Kef matters are quiet for the moment, owing to the immediate presence of the soldiery. Between Sert and Jezireh I was witness of the contempt of the mountaineers for the authority. At Hini and Palu it is the same, and on the edge of the Dersim district occurrences of which your Excellency is well aware have long been the rule. But it is not only the zaptiehs who curse the Government, the Mesopotamian peasants near Seruj speak with bitter curses of the "Osmanlis." Kurds, Arabs, Armenians, Jacobites, Chaldeans, all hate the dominant race. None, however, seem, like the Turks, to possess the spirit or aspiration to rule, they long only to be free from the yoke that oppresses them. None strike me as possessing, even in the limited degree that the Turks do, the power of organizing or administering, or to possess the initiative, courage, or capacity of coalescing and combining, and I can only repeat what I have before given to your Excellency as my opinion, that without agitation or intrigue from without, or as the result of causes emanating from Constantinople, the Ottoman Government ought for years to come to be able to cope with any internal troubles that may arise in its provinces.

While, in many respects, slow as the progress has been, Kurdistan has advanced very perceptibly since the days described in Donald Kinneir's book, in your Excellency's works, and others that treat of the country some years since, I think that in material prosperity it appears to have fallen off very much.

Modern inventions, such as steam communication and the telegraph, have benefited the Government and placed in their hands enormous additional power, used principally, I fear, for misgovernment and oppression; for the people, beyond the cheapening of certain imports through the agency of steam navigation, they have done nothing, or next to nothing. Formerly it took the people as long to combine for remonstrance or revolt as now; they have even, except for the presence of more numerous Consuls, little better opportunities of exposing their grievances, indeed, in the case of the Moslems the *esprit de corps* of Islam and the leaven of fanaticism has been powerful enough in the hands of functionaries and ecclesiastics to keep the Moslems away from the Consuls.

While the latter are travelling in the villages, Moslems will complain to them just as frequently perhaps as Christians, but I do not think I am wrong in stating that a resident Consul will receive ten petitions or ten requests to redress grievances from Christians for one from Moslems, great as is the majority of the latter.

The Government, on the other hand, who used to take weeks and months to learn of disturbances arisen or being fomented, has the earliest intelligence of every movement, and in an Empire whose geographical features go far to remedy the absence of land communication that would otherwise would prove so serious, it is only the lethargic apathy with which outbreaks are treated in their earlier stages that allows them to attain the dimensions they do. Had the advisability of such a measure as the recent one regarding the "beshlik" currency been discussed, doubtless many competent judges would have declared that the long-suffering population would not stand it, but so far it has been accepted with wonderful resignation.

Public ignorance of passing events in Turkey is profound; I have been frequently asked in villages, in the last few weeks, if Turkey is still at war with Russia. Public opinion cannot be said to exist, the influence of the press, the lever for promoting, guiding, and maturing such is hardly felt, except, perhaps, among the Armenians; all papers are subject to Government control, and any traveller has only to observe the very modest number a mail brings to a town of 40,000 or 50,000 inhabitants to realize how little the wonderful power of the modern press is exerted on these populations. In the villages newspapers are never read, with the rarest exceptions. Were communications to be good, education higher and more general, or public opinion to be formed by the press—and Orientals are singularly fond of news and of being read to—the universal discontent and dislike to the Government is so great that it would have to reform radically or perish.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 194.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Kharput, April 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that on arrival at Kharput I found his Excellency Baker Pasha confined to his bed by illness. He is now nearly recovered, and leaves for Sivas in a day or two, viâ Malatia, where there has recently been a riot in the town.

Owing to his illness he has not yet written his Report on Diarbekir. His staff have also suffered, and two or three of them, *i.e.*, Mr. G. Burgin, his private Secretary, Zihni Bey, and perhaps Yussuf Bey, Aide-de-camps, are to be invalided and proceed hence to Constantinople.

I have, as your Excellency will learn from my despatch No. 4, occupied myself as far as lay in my power in seeing as much of the country as possible, and only regret that the severity of the weather, combined with the famine, have not permitted me to make as full topographical researches as are desirable in view of the important military problem that may be some day solved in these regions. I have conformed my movements generally to those of Baker Pasha, having met him at Diarbekir, Sert, Jezireh, and here again at Kharput.

It is a matter of great regret to me that the Commission has not proceeded further south. The highlands of South-East Kurdistan, the frontier of Khuzistan, and the country thence northwards near the Persian border, viâ Suleymanieh and Rowanduz, to Van, is perhaps the least known of the Turkish Empire in Asia, if I except the route of Sir Fenwick Williams, R.A., K.C.B., when on the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission.

Its possible strategical importance as regards the Tigris and the Persian Gulf in any future complications, whatever might be the attitude of Persia, is evident, and as, except in the immediate neighbourhood of Van, it does not lie within the limits of any of the new Vice-Consulates, I was in hopes of being able to collect many important topographical sketches and details.

I have just learnt that I shall not have the good fortune to meet Colonel Wilson, R.E., C.B., at Sivas. On arrival at that place I shall telegraph to your Excellency the probable date of Baker Pasha's departure for Erzingian and Erzeroum, and, unless I receive fresh instructions from your Excellency, I shall of course accompany him. Baker Pasha intends to leave Erzeroum to visit the outlying sandjaks, and to proceed to Bayazid, and thence to Van, and from that locality, one to which his mission does not extend according to his present instructions, to telegraph for fresh ones; if these are, as he imagines most likely to be the case, to return to Constantinople, he will, by taking a southern route, have visited the very important country near Van, and the greater part of that on the north-eastern frontier.

The mission naturally excites very little attention, and, of course, disappoints the

population, who expect immediate redress of their grievances. I may mention a fact, trivial, and which has not occurred at most of the places visited, but one your Excellency will perhaps deem of some significance. Here at Kharput, where the Ulema element is considerable in numbers and influence, only one ecclesiastic, the Cadi, was among those who came to meet Baker Pasha. I think that there is little doubt that the present party in power at Constantinople are supported by the higher official and Ulema classes throughout the country in what seems to me their attempt to discredit and undermine British influence. I do not think the people, who have few but official sources of information, whose public opinion, or rather the aggregate of the convictions of isolated sections of whom, which takes the place of public opinion, is, as it were, manipulated or directed, where possible, through official sources, have at all a true conception of England's attitude towards them, or that they in any way look on England as their champion; rather, indeed, as a former friend who failed them in the hour of need, who, rich herself, will not help them in their sore distress, and the action of whose Agents is selfishly confined to a strict regard of her own interests, or who, as I gather, they are rather taught to look on as the mere supporter of the Christian, though the present local relief measures of English Agents are, I think, having an excellent political effect, and one that will develop. In general, however, the gross ignorance of the masses leaves them enough and to spare of Oriental suspicion, jealousy, and distrust, and of the leaven of fanaticism, for the misrepresentation of England's action to be easy enough. Again and again I have come across a very bitter feeling on the subject of England's accession of Cyprus, merely looked on as territorial aggrandisement, while the purport or the very existence of the Anglo-Turkish Convention is frequently unknown, nor, as far as I am aware, has any use been made of the organs of the press that represent the Government to enlighten the people on these points. As regards the present, no definite programme is before them, no realization of the fact of what their Government is asked to do for them, and the responsibility attaching to its practical refusal, no knowledge of England's efforts for, and interests in, all classes alike.

As the foreign Missions and educational establishments are looked on as being for the Christians alone, so analogously, though in a lesser form it is true, is Consular interference regarded by a large section of the population. It is easy to represent it as such, indeed such is its traditional character in the case of the Agents of certain Powers.

The people were and are prepared for a great change, to welcome almost any change, but failing to see any tangible benefits, only the reverse, unaware of the details of reforms for Anatolia demanded by your Excellency, or of Turkish action in the matter, the spirit of disappointment and apathetic despair induced rather a belief of England's inability or unwillingness to help them, than a true conception of the situation.

Baker Pasha remained about three weeks at Diarbekir. Beyond his interest in the scarcity question, his principal acts were confined to an inspection of the zaptieh and police forces, and the institution of a Commission to inquire into the alleged frauds and misappropriation of sums assigned for the pay and maintenance of the former force.

At Aleppo he had only seen the reorganized force, badly drilled, armed (muzzle-loading carbines), and equipped, but still with some organization.

The Commission instituted to inquire into the frauds was composed of military members, as it was hoped they would not fear to convict the guilty persons. Before the Pasha left Diarbekir, the existence of considerable frauds had been proved. In passing through Diarbekir the other day, I learnt, however, from Major Trotter that no convictions had yet been made, and that he feared there was an unreadiness to to attack the superior officers who were protected in high quarters. The town police force was also inspected; it is a well-equipped, well-dressed, fairly-organized force, and the private receives 300 piastres a-month as against the 70 piastres and daily ration of bread of a foot gendarme (400 drams in an oke of 2·78 lbs.). The police force was an institution of Abeddin Pasha's Reform Commission last year, and its members are both Moslem and Christian. It is under the orders of the superior officials of the gendarmerie or zaptieh force, which latter is naturally jealous of it. Baker Pasha has suggested that it be paid by the Beladiya, or Municipal Council, and be subject to its control. The total establishment of the Diarbekir Vilayet police force numbers 170. At Diarbekir there are 56 men and head-quarters, at Mardin there are 40, Sert 26, at Maaden none, Kharput none, Malatia 35, Silvan 2, Ilija 2, Jezireh 3, Nisibin 2, Midiad 4, Avina 2. The Diarbekir force is highly spoken of, and the Sert force seemed efficient. The Mardin force is not well spoken of, and on the occasion of a

recent very serious outrage seems to have done nothing as far as I can learn, in passing through that city a few days afterwards.

The zaptieh force contains Christians; I came across some anything but content with their lot; they had not received uniform, only one month's pay, in fact, their daily bread ration was all they received. While at Diarbekir Baker Pasha was naturally engaged in making inquiries into the question of the banishment of the Kurdish Chiefs; the Government wished him to re-examine the matter, but he suggested its referral for final revision to Abeddin Pasha, as while on the one hand there can be little doubt as to the hasty nature of some of the sentences, on the other hand there can be none as to the general beneficial results of the measure as a whole, or the inadvisability of weakening Abeddin Pasha's prestige. General Baker Pasha's opinion on this matter is not merely based on what he heard at Diarbekir, but as he has visited Mardin, Sert, Midiad, and the other districts from which most of the exiles have been taken, he has had exceptional opportunities of judging. Major Trotter is of the same opinion as am I; no one, I think, who has recently travelled in Kurdistan will contend that it was not a wise measure, even if too hastily executed, and it would undoubtedly have been very difficult in the present state of the country to execute it in any other way.

On the other hand, my journey through very many localities in Kurdistan has shown me that there is a very great deal to be said on the side of the Kurdish Chiefs. Almost from time immemorial the land has been theirs. Perched on craggy ledges above the winding rocky gorges of the Tigris and Bohtan, closing mountain defiles, commanding fords, dominating the little mountain villages that cling to the rocky hill-sides, or conspicuous in the plain on some little eminence that overlooks the villages, are their white castelets, mostly ruined now, but admirably defensible little buildings, with their large courtyards, loopholed walls, and, at times, parapetted roofs. The Beys were the old feudal lords; the Christians, and many of the Moslems, often little better than serfs; in a word, the feudal system. This, as in other countries, has been destroyed by the existing Government as far as it has been able; but with it have gone the riches, the comforts, the property of the old landed Chiefs. Nothing has been substituted for it but a taxation and oppression which, while ruining the country from its bearing so heavily on the poor, has yet in its manner of collection, its endless openings for corruption and malpractices, spared few of the richer land-owners. Where before tribute and service was given to the Beys, tithe, sheep tax, poll tax, land tax, property tax, income tax, have been brought in; and in cases even the emancipated Christian serfs groan for the good old days. The Government has destroyed the old system, but substituted nothing for it—no roads, no schools, no protection. Villagers in the old days gave tribute and service to a Bey; in return he protected them against the incursions of neighbouring tribes, those of nomads, of robbers, and of other Beys. He was their Seigneur; and the honour of their women was, I have been told by Christians, inviolate. Now, when it is considered that a caza—perhaps a wild mountainous district, with an area of 1,000 to 1,500 square miles—has usually a gendarmerie force of from twenty to thirty men, ill-paid, ill-armed, inefficient, mostly employed in postal and orderly duties, collection of taxes, &c., it is evident what a shadowy unreality is the Government protection that has been substituted for that of the Chiefs. Even were the will there, the power is wanting. As a rule, the corrupt Turkish officials look on all with apathy that does not concern their own personal interests or endanger their place. From Valis downwards, Turkish Governors, as a rule, administer but to satisfy the immediate requirements of the Government, with no regard for those of the population. I was told by Christians at Sert, in the mountains, and further south, that the unredressed damage and outrage they suffered at the hands of "Kochers," or nomad Kurds, was such that they actually preferred the old system, with all its abuses, and wished for it back. "There were good Beys and bad Beys; if only the Beys could be kept in order, they would sooner have them than not." I was, indeed, the bearer of two petitions from Christians to the Commission, asking for the release of one of the banished Bohtan Chiefs. Hajo, a Kurdish Chief in the Midiad district, now a brigand with a price on his head; has, it is said, many Christians in his band, and the Jacobite Christians of the district speak well of him.

All through Kurdistan, and up to Tehabak Chur, Tehar Sandjak, and to this region, there are many complaints as to the undoubted gross oppression of the Beys and Aghas, and their outrages; and the land question is much as I described it to your Excellency to be in the Taurus, further west. In different localities the matter varies; but the Chiefs, not only in the mountains—men like Isak Bey and Reschid

Bey, in this neighbourhood (or the notorious Geghi Beys)—but also in rich lowland tracts, like the Kharput plain, consider the land theirs. They find, as a rule, the seed-corn. The land is cultivated by the tenant, and after the tithe is taken by the Government, the produce is, as a rule, equally divided. But to the tenure of the land attach certain time-honoured customs and conditions, productive of the greater part of the misery and oppression. These vary according to districts. The landlords exact forced service in places: ploughing and harvesting, without payment, for their own crops before those of the peasants, bringing in the produce to the towns, gifts of animals, cutting and bringing wood, &c. In the Kharput plain, for instance, there is such a competition for the rich land that the villagers must accept these conditions or be ejected from their tenure. In the mountains, as further west, the conditions of tenure are less regular, the abuses are greater, the peasants more enslaved, and with less hope of redress. The landlords, looking on them to this day, more or less, as their traditional slaves, exact all they can; and the villagers, even if not, as is often the case, ignorant of their rights, have no means of asserting them.

The probable success of their complaints, owing to the influence of the landlords with the Government, have been gone into at length in former despatches, and I need only add here that what I found near Marash I have found everywhere, more or less. There are great abuses in the general system of land-tenure quite apart from the obsolete "sipahi" or military service, land rights, and other traditional peculiar privileges of tenure which linger on in places, the vacouf lands, &c. It is a great question, one of paramount importance to the Government, one to be duly weighed by competent Turkish authorities, and only to be changed gradually and deliberately; but a crying one of the many as regards internal reform; one, too, which has many technicalities, matters often depending purely on legal questions of title, &c., that make it a specially difficult one for any foreign intervention. It is for the Turkish Government to deal with, and enormously in its own interest to do so, for the present repressive system gives as a result grasping, impoverished landlords, and apathetic, unprogressive tenants. Landlords, tenants, and revenue suffer alike, for the present system is utterly destructive of individual enterprise and initiative, and the only agricultural investment of capital is usury, while there is no incentive to increased production. Want of communications, and the bad, slovenly system of agriculture are among the causes; the latter indeed are so many, so complicated, that I can but generally indicate them and point out results. The ordinary Government system of granting land on "usufruct" is unsatisfactory in result, whatever it may be in principle. The "emlak," or "property tax"—4 per cent. on annual rent of land, buildings, &c., 4 per cent. on the actual value (property being calculated at ten years' purchase), weighs heavily on both rich and poor, but more especially on the latter, who usually rent lands and pay it. The capital and income gained by usury, &c., escape taxation in a great measure. The "tithe" system, great as are its inherent defects, is one which could at present be changed but very gradually, though undoubtedly Said Pasha's (Aleppo Vali) plan seems well worthy attention; such, at least, is Baker Pasha's opinion, and he concurs in those I have written above, which I have read over to him. I have described to your Excellency in my despatch No. 4 the ruinous state of the country and villages. Your Excellency will remember from previous despatches the state of the Cilicur Dagh, the Shukur Ovasi, or great Cilician plain, the Ishakia and Basardjik plains, &c., and how the tendency of the existing Administration is to add to the already vast uncultivated tracts of land, and to drive the inhabitants to desert their villages and resume nomadic habits. Here in Kurdistan it is the same. The statistical officer of the Diarbekir Vilayet (Emlak Mudiru), who has for the past nine (!) years been collecting the statistics that represent a census and "cadastre," told Baker Pasha that numerous villages that a few years since contained 200 houses now contained but 30 or 40. Along the routes of Ainsworth, Moltke, and other travellers, I have found an enormous number of the villages marked on the maps now abandoned, and with hardly an exception all have fallen off in size and prosperity. Among the many causes of this, one of the principal, and one that calls most earnestly for remedy and attention, is the system of land taxation and its mode of collection. The "emlak," or property tax (4 per cent. on rental, 4 per cent. on value) is levied on arable land, houses, vines, mills, &c., and seems, in the opinion of Baker Pasha and other competent judges, an undue burden on the agricultural population. The tax is, besides, assessed by villages as a rule; the number of peasants diminishes, but for years after the same fixed sum is often demanded and exacted. The assessment of two taxes is usually combined under the name of "verghi," i.e., the "emlak" and the tax on earnings and professions

("temettu"); according to the latter regulations each individual should pay his taxes and receive his receipt. The usual proceeding, and one which appears still to obtain in the enormous majority of cases, is the assessment of the "verghi" for whole villages and communities. The Headmen (Mukhtars) are charged with the distribution and collection of this, and the peasants have no idea of the gross sum collected by the Headmen, or of their own proper share. The abuses and oppression to which this opens the door are evident. The system of individual taxation has remained a dead letter in most cases, except near the head-quarters of Local Governments. Another point, which is one which keeps the peasants in many districts completely at the mercy of the authorities and tax-collectors, is the question of "bakia," or arrears of taxation. In some cases this is enormous; the arrears of the Djezireh Caza amount to 40,000,000 piastres, and the demands for payment of these sums, or bribes for deferring their payment, place in the hands of corrupt officials a most powerful instrument of exaction and oppression that leaves the villagers quite at their mercy. Although in principle a just measure that, under exceptional circumstances, grace in discharging their debts should be conceded to the villagers, it has become in the hands of venal officials a pretext for securing bribes, and the villagers have learnt to turn to intrigue, corruption, and chicanery to avoid, if possible, by such means the discharge of their due obligations. A Turkish officer, who has served long in India, was speaking to me most strongly on the matter the other day. A definite arrangement on this point is most desirable in the interests of the Government and the peasants alike.

The new Edict as regards the metallic currency is one on which it is needless for me to enlarge. It has been accepted so far with a patience and resignation that speaks volumes for the condition and tractable character of the population. Its effect on the people in the southern provinces suffering from the war contributions, the previous financial measures of the Government, and now this famine, is a terrible and cruel one, and such is the distrust of the Government and its money, and the anticipation of further similar measures, that all confidence is lost even in the existing currency, trade paralyzed, and the natural effects of the measure even further aggravated. The Arabs, who have stores of money, "ghazis" and "beshliks," the latter preferred to all other coins, will suffer enormously, probably also many of the pastoral Kurds.

In the villages, as far as I could learn, recent events have so far impoverished even the wealthiest, that stores of money are exceedingly rare, and these, as a rule hidden, are in many cases gold or silver. I cannot, on the strength of my own limited opportunities of observation, advance, with any degree of confidence, so sweeping a general assertion, but all I see leads me to believe that the villagers will not lose in the same way as the merchants and townspeople; the hoarded stores and capital of the latter in these provinces, where gold and silver are exceedingly rare, are in the metallic currency, and the amount of loss is evident, as well as the effect on trade of the public want of confidence in the future action and intentions of the Government. But while the villagers will not actually lose as large amounts as the townspeople, they can perhaps less afford to do so, and the diminution by such an enormous proportion of the small stores that might have enabled them to weather the present famine will produce cruel suffering.

As arrears are payable till August on the old scale, "beshliks" are in demand, as their value being reduced one-half, while that of the "altiliks" is only reduced one-sixth, the advantage of paying arrears in the former currency is evident. Prices fluctuate, but at present 50 beshliks, or 125 piastres, are obtainable for a gold lira, and 24 altiliks or 120 piastres for the same sum, but the demand for the former seems likely to increase. One probable effect of the measure seems to be that every effort will be made by the population, who will have recourse to selling their goods to the money lenders, &c., to pay their arrears; the local treasuries would thus be filled, and the Government be in a position to pay the arrears of salaries of employés in the metallic currency at its old value, and to discharge their local debts. At Diarbekir they were actually trying to hold the contractors to the terms of their contracts, but paying with the currency estimated at the old value. As a consequence of the recommendations of Abeddin Pasha last year, Skender Bey, a staff officer (Hungarian) of the 4th Army Corps, has been dispatched from Erzinjian to Diarbekir to inspect and select sites for barracks to be erected in various parts of Kurdistan, and for the inspection of existing disused barracks and the estimation of the amount of repairs necessary. The barracks are to be for cavalry and infantry, according to circumstances, and the proposed sites include twenty-four new ones, nineteen of which are to

be selected, and the five old sites utilized on which disused barracks at present exist. The new barracks are to be for two or three companies each, or a squadron or two of cavalry. The sites embrace the districts west of the Tigris and to the south of the Taurus, past Hini, Farkeyn, Sassun, to Sert, Deyrgul in the Bohtan, Shernach, and so round viâ Nisibin, Deyrek, near Mardin, Rasul Ain in the desert, and up to Hassan Mausur, Aktcha Dagh, and Kiachta in the Malatia district of the Taurus. Considering the impoverished state of the revenue, and the enormous deficit that the loss of stock, the loss to the peasants, and the prospects of the crops (that, however good, cannot be very abundant owing to the limited sowing), the project appears to be attempted on too ambitious a scale. Judging from the barracks I saw built last year the total outlay cannot be less than 25,000*l.*, and might easily be double that sum. With the fine barracks at Eski-Mosul, a magnificent one at Nisibin, another at Hassan Mausur, empty and falling to ruin, one cannot but fear it will be the old story of the Cinour Dagh over again, and that too much is being attempted. However, at present nothing has been done, and Skender Bey is still after three months at Diarbekir, and no nearer starting, owing to difficulties with the Local Government about an escort, pay for them, forage, &c.

If troops could be stationed as proposed it would be no doubt a good thing, especially on the edge of the desert, but at present the populations, such as those of Dehe, Redwan, &c., have learnt to look on their presence as anything but an unmixed blessing. If they could be paid, rationed, and kept from plundering and misconduct it would be excellent, but the prospect would be more hopeful were a really serious commencement to be made on a small scale, and I doubt in any case the necessity of such numerous posts.

At present the country is garrisoned as follows:—3rd Regiment of the 4th Army Corps, two battalions; head-quarters, Diarbekir; about 300 strong each, clothed, but in arrears of pay. Several companies of these are now at Hassan Kef, Midyad, &c. (in all about 400 men). In the Mardin Sandjak there are a few cavalry, and also a squadron at Redwan. At Sert there is a battalion of the 3rd Regiment, only about 200 strong; the men are fairly clothed, but there is a great difficulty about their food. Two companies belonging, I believe, to this battalion, are in the Bohtan, Dehe, &c.

The remaining battalion of the 3rd Regiment is at Djezireh; it is only about 150 strong, miserably clothed, but fairly rationed.

At Harbol and Zacho were 4 companies of the Rifle Battalion ("Talia"), of a Regiment of the 6th Army Corps, and a company of Sappers; these have been withdrawn to Mosul owing to the scarcity. At Mosul, besides these, there is 1 battalion about 300 strong.

At Kerkuk, the head-quarters of 2 battalions and a mountain battery, detachments at Amadia; all these of the 6th Army Corps, whose discipline, officers and men, is much inferior to that of the 4th Corps.

At Urfa there is a rifle battalion ("Talia") of the 5th Army Corps (over 300 strong).

At Marash 1 battalion (possibly 2 companies at Zeitoun); at Feke, near Hadgin, 4 companies, and, I think, the head-quarters of a battalion; at Aleppo 2 battalions, 1 field battery, and several squadrons of cavalry; all these of the 5th Army Corps.

The battalions are all weak owing to the discharge of time-expired men (6 years) into the redifs. No men have yet been passed into the Tiftiat, or first and active reserve, which existed before the war (after 3 years with the colours in the infantry, 4 years in the cavalry and artillery). The lists of the redifs or reservists are getting into hopeless confusion; all the names of the men who were on them before the war are retained, while the names of those who are not drawn for the regulars, and who should be accordingly inscribed in the relief lists, are not, I am assured, so inscribed as a rule.

In the present absence of statistics and census, Baker Pasha is of opinion that unless the matter be taken seriously in hand, the whole system will break down. At Hini, for example, of 60 men who went for active service only 4 have returned; nothing is known of the others. The redif depôts were emptied to equip the troops who went to the war, and have not been replenished.

In the matter of arms this is serious; a battalion perhaps left 1,000 strong (redif battalions sometimes numbered 1,600), and has returned 200 strong; the 200 stand of arms, damaged and in bad order, is all there are to equip the battalion if now called under arms. In the mountains generally the Kurds only pay taxes under

compulsion, and do not give soldiers; even when they do, the men desert from places as distant as Aleppo.

Although I have no reports of Baker Pasha's to speak of to your Excellency, I have had the advantage of numerous interesting conversations with him; he is of opinion that mounted infantry on mules, and numerous posts along the edge of the desert, are one of the main desiderata. Another point he wishes to see introduced is that of ambulant officials to accompany the tribes in their annual migrations to arrange the disputes and quarrels between them, supervise their periodical emigrations, &c. He spoke to the intelligent Chief of the Miran Kurds (600 families), a tribe who in summer live to the south of Lake Van, but are now in the neighbourhood of the Sinjar, on the matter, and this man professed his approbation of the idea. He is well spoken of by the Government officials at Djezireh, a point his tribe pass in their journeys, and he asserts that he pays an annual tax of 50 piastres per tent, besides the sheep tax.

In other places I am told the tax is 30 piastres per tent, but there seems no doubt that it is, as a rule, unpaid in numerous instances, and only collected with great difficulty.

Baker Pasha is, on the whole, becoming very hopeless as to the prospects of reform. The official corruption, the natural outcome of that at Constantinople, and its system of patronage, the vested interest of a large and most influential mass of functionaries, who for that reason resolutely oppose all change, and never give effect to any measure that touches individual interests, is so deep, so vast, that while it seems almost hopeless to obviate or even modify it in the provinces, it must nevertheless be the first thing to be seriously dealt with. Baker Pasha's views on the method of dealing with it, and the possibility of reforming the country, touch on high political considerations that it would not be becoming of me to write to your Excellency.

In matters of detail both he and Said Pasha are in favour of a reduction in the number of officials, the idea of ambulant Tribunals, such as Assize Courts, independent of local influence, and the necessity of provincial budgets, points on which I have already written to your Excellency in my despatches from Aleppo last year.

Your Excellency is aware of the disastrous state of the provincial Treasuries; the soil, however, is so rich, and the natural resources of the country so great, that Baker Pasha is of opinion that in three years after the introduction of a completely reformed Administration, were such possible, the revenue of the Empire might be so increased that it would suffice for the Imperial services.

I cannot say that I share his Excellency's views completely. Undoubtedly, were the actual sums now usually due from the population for tithes, &c., and those calculated as the amount that should be realized on the customs, to find their way into the Imperial Treasury, the revenue would be enormously increased, perhaps more than doubled; but the country appears to me so utterly ruined, climate, irrigation works, forests, sites, &c., so in want of communications, that in spite of the enormous mineral wealth of the Taurus, Bohtan, and Anti-Taurus, I imagine that, even were an ideal Administration introduced, the recuperative power of the country is so dormant that the introduction of an amount of capital that seems little likely to find its way into the country, would be required, and that otherwise, even with reformed administration, none but the slowest progress could be made for many years.

In my recent journey of some 1,500 miles I have failed to note a sign or evidence of resuscitation, or of an effort or hope of such.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 195.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 352.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

I HAVE to convey to your Excellency the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the successful termination of your efforts to procure the recall of the Defterdar of Angora, as reported in your Excellency's telegram No. 250 of the 21st instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 196.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 354.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE to request that you will convey to Captain Clayton the approval of Her Majesty's Government of his proceedings in endeavouring to alleviate the distress which exists in the Vilayet of Van, as reported in his despatch No. 3, Commercial, of the 30th March last to Major Trotter, copy of which was inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 505 of the 11th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 197.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 357.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 502 of the 11th instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Everett to Major Trotter, relating to the dismissal of Mehemet Ali Bey, the Kaimakam of Keghi, and the non-fulfilment of the promises made by the Porte as to the trial of the Beys of that district for their ill-treatment of the Christian inhabitants.

I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the representations you have addressed to Sawas Pasha on the subject, and I have at the same time to request that your Excellency will convey to Captain Everett my approval of his proceedings.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 198.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 359.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE to request your Excellency to convey to Captain Clayton the approval of Her Majesty's Government of his proceedings as reported in his despatch No. 11 of the 30th March last to Her Majesty's Consul in Kurdistan, copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 506 of the 11th instant, relative to the Circassians in the district of Boulanyk.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 199.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 11.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

Sir,

WITH reference to a despatch from Captain Clayton, No. 11 of the 30th March last, addressed to Major Trotter, of which a copy is inclosed in Sir H. Layard's No. 506 of the 11th instant, relative to the proceedings of Circassians in the neighbourhood of Bitlis, I have to request your Excellency to call the attention of the Porte to the conduct of the recently-appointed Kaimakam of Boulanyk, as well as to the danger which the inhabitants of the sandjak of Sert appear to apprehend from the threatening attitude of the Kurds who surround them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 200.

Memorandum confidentially communicated to Sir C. Dilke by Odian Effendi, June 1 (?).

(Confidentielle.)

UNE Circulaire de la Sublime Porte a été communiquée par le Chargé d'Affaires de la Turquie à Lord Granville qui, d'après les derniers renseignements reçus de Constantinople, a répondu à Musurus Bey qu'il n'a pas d'opinion à exprimer et que l'Angleterre n'agit que d'accord avec les autres Puissances.

Quelques points à relever dans cette Circulaire:

1. La Circulaire dit: "Il existe des Arméniens, mais l'Arménie n'existe pas, qu'elle est ignorée des populations à tel point que si on leur demandait où elle est située, elles ne sauraient que répondre."

Il est difficile de comprendre ce que la Porte veut dire par-là. L'Arménie n'existe-t-elle pas dans l'histoire? Ne forme-t-elle pas une partie de la Turquie d'Asie? Ne figure-t-elle pas sur les cartes géographiques sous ce nom?

L'Arménie a eu une existence politique indépendante pendant plus de 3,000 ans. Celui qui a écrit la Circulaire n'a donc lu ni Hérodote, ni Xénophon, ni Tacite, ni Polybe, ni Strabon, ni Plutarque. Il n'a pas même lu la Bible.

L'Arménie figure non-seulement sur les cartes faites en Europe, mais on peut la voir aussi sur des cartes faites en Turquie et en Ture. L'Arménie existe également aujourd'hui malgré la domination Turque, comme ont existé et existent la Grèce, la Bulgarie, l'Albanie, &c., précisément parce qu'il n'y a eu qu'une église Musulmane militaire qui a fait irruption dans ces contrées, qui s'y est établie comme une vaste communauté religieuse, qui n'a pas formé une nouvelle nation ni une nouvelle patrie englobant et faisant disparaître les anciennes.

Le nom de l'Arménie est de plus cher à tous les Arméniens, et il y a une chose que l'Arménien le plus ignorant n'ignore pas, c'est qu'il y a une Arménie. Il n'y a pas un seul Arménien qui ne sache le nom de l'Arménie.

L'autre jour encore Lord Granville recevait une adresse à Sa Majesté la Reine de l'Assemblée Représentative de la Province de Van, datée de l'Arménie et demandant une administration Arménienne pour l'Arménie. L'année passée les Arméniens de la Province d'Erzéroum présentaient aux Commissaires du Gouvernement Ture lui-même une adresse demandant pour l'Arménie un Gouverneur-Général Arménien pour cinq ans, avec des pouvoirs étendus. Si la Porte cherche dans ses archives elle y trouvera une foule de documents portant le nom de l'Arménie, mais elle n'y trouvera aucun document, Firman, Hatt ou n'importe quel acte émané de sa Chancellerie où il soit question de Ture ou de Turquie, noms inconnus au Divan dont la langue officielle reconnait seulement des Musulmans et des pays gardés par l'Islam.

Pour la première fois c'est Mr. Layard qui a eu l'idée, contrairement à l'histoire, à la géographie, et à l'othnographie, de substituer le nom de Kurdistan à celui d'Arménie lors de la nomination du Consul Anglais à Sivas, l'année passée. Le Patriarche Arménien a protesté et Mr. Layard en a fait part au Gouvernement de la Reine, comme on peut le voir dans le Blue Book. Cette innovation a d'ailleurs soulevé un sentiment d'indignation chez tous les Arméniens, et aujourd'hui même je reçois, pour être remis à Mr. Gladstone, une adresse de félicitations signée par trois Sociétés Arméniennes, et dans laquelle on proteste encore contre cette substitution de nom.

2. La Circulaire prétend que les Arméniens dans leurs provinces forment le cinquième des populations.

Aucun statistique n'existe en Turquie. La Circulaire ne s'appuie donc sur aucune donnée, et elle avance une chose qu'on ne pourra jamais prouver. Le Patriarcat Arménien avait pourtant fait faire une statistique des provinces de Arménie, statistique incomplète elle-même, il est vrai, et faite par des moyens très-insuffisants. Je mets ci-dessous les chiffres que j'y trouve, pour ce qui concerne les principaux centres Arméniens.

Van.

Arméniens	184,000
Turcs	30,000
Kurdes	90,000
Syriens	80,000
Juifs	363

Erzeroum.

Arméniens	215,177
Turcs	159,621
Kurdes	140,000
Zazas	62,369
Syriens	4,035
Grecs	3,420
Yézidis	3,627
Lazes	2,000
Circassiens	1,800
Persans	100
Coptes	20

Bitlis et Mouch.

Arméniens	164,503
Turcs	28,003
Kurdes	48,095
Zazas	15,000
Circassiens	1,000
Syriens	330

Je me suis borné à ces trois centres populeux, parce qu'ils formaient il n'y a pas longtemps un seul et même vilayet et parce qu'ils doivent, d'après moi, être réunis de nouveau en une seule province sous un Gouverneur-Général Arménien. Je laisse de côté la petite Arménie et la Cilicie, qui a été le dernier réfuge de l'indépendance Arménienne.

Il résulte de ces chiffres que les Arméniens ne sont pas les moins nombreux.

Mais que sont les Turcs et les Kurdes eux-mêmes de l'Arménie? Des Arméniens convertis à l'Islamisme. Et quant à moi, la question de majorité et de minorité ne fait rien à la question. Il suffit qu'il y ait en Arménie une grande agglomération d'Arméniens, et comme il est prouvé jusqu'à l'évidence qu'une administration Musulmane est par sa nature même incapable de pratiquer la justice et l'égalité à l'égard des Chrétiens; qu'il n'y a qu'un seul moyen de faire cesser les maux dont souffrent les Arméniens—la sécularisation de l'administration; que comme les populations Chrétiennes de différentes races de la Turquie ont aujourd'hui chacune un centre où elles peuvent se grouper et jouir de l'égalité et de la justice sous une administration Chrétienne, il faut aussi que les Arméniens aient un centre à eux où puissent se réfugier ceux mêmes qui se trouveraient dans les provinces laissées sous l'administration Musulmane, et où ils puissent vivre à l'abri des vexations et de l'oppression des fonctionnaires Musulmans comme des Kurdes et des Circassiens; il devient nécessaire, indispensable de décentraliser et séculariser les provinces de l'Arménie.

3. La Circulaire prétend qu'en Bulgarie les Musulmans souffrent aujourd'hui plus que les Chrétiens n'ont souffert pendant quatre siècles et que la même chose arriverait en Arménie si on lui donnait des institutions analogues. Comment? En Bulgarie il existe quatre Chrétiens contre un Musulman, dit la Circulaire, tandis qu'en Arménie, d'après la même Circulaire, il y aurait cinq Musulmans contre un Chrétien.

En Arménie, dans l'Assemblée Générale, les Musulmans seront donc en grande majorité, et on prétend qu'une infime minorité arrivera à opprimer la majorité et à décréter des mesures de persécution contre elle. Je ne m'arrête pas davantage sur cette contradiction de la circulation, ni ne veux faire ressortir l'exagération des accusations portées contre les Bulgares. Je dis seulement que l'on commet une cruelle injustice et qu'on fait la plus grave injure aux Arméniens, dont le caractère doux et pacifique est reconnu par toutes les populations de la Turquie, Musulmanes et Chrétiennes, en avançant que dès qu'ils auront l'administration entre les mains, il se signaleront par des actes de cruauté et de persécution contre les Musulmans ou les Kurdes. Les Arméniens vivront comme des frères avec les Musulmans et civiliseront les Kurdes, en rendant sédentaire, propriétaire, et industrielle cette population nomade et qui ne vit jusqu'ici que de pillage. Lord Byron a dit des Arméniens que "de tous les peuples de la terre, ils sont peut-être celui dont les annales sont le moins souillées de crimes." Ils resteront toujours les mêmes.

No. 201.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 530.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 19, 1880.

COLONEL MILES has transmitted to your Lordship a copy of his able and exhaustive Report upon the disputes which have so long existed between the different Christian communities at Mosul, and have given rise to so much scandal.

As I have some acquaintance with their origin and history, I may perhaps venture to state to your Lordship that I agree with the suggestions submitted to me by Colonel Miles for their arrangement.

The correspondence which has taken place between your Lordship's predecessor and myself respecting the differences between the Jacobites and the Roman Catholic Syrians will show that the agreement come to between the French Ambassador and myself for their settlement was founded, to a certain extent, upon insufficient information, as the Jacobite Patriarch, although earnestly invited by me to take part in the discussions between my French colleague and myself, obstinately refused to do so, or to listen to any suggestions for a compromise, which, in consequence of the attitude of the French Government, had become absolutely necessary. Had his Beatitude consented to submit his case to M. Fournier and myself, as the Roman Catholic Syrian Metropolitan at once agreed to do with regard to that of the Roman Catholic Syrians, he might have been able to obtain better terms for his people. He was offered a choice of the churches which were to be divided between the two communities, but he would hear of no partition, and claimed them all. The information which Colonel Miles has obtained on the spot has enabled him to propose what appears to be a fairer and more convenient arrangement. But, in order to carry it out, it will be necessary for your Lordship to obtain the consent of the French Government, which has hitherto, through its agent, supported the Roman Catholic clergy in Mesopotamia in their violent and arbitrary measures to compel the Jacobite Syrians to join the Church of Rome, and to deprive them of their churches and their property. The same observation applies to the ancient Chaldeans, who have also been the victims of persecution on the part of Rome, supported by France.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 202.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 533.)

My Lord, *Therapia, May* 22, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram addressed to the Armenian Patriarch by the Armenian Bishop Khorinian, the President of the Committee for the relief of the Armenians of the Vilayet of Van, who are suffering from famine. His Beatitude begs me to make such representations to the Porte as may induce it to take prompt and efficacious measures to put an end to the state of things described by the Bishop, and to afford proper protection to the Armenian population of the province.

I shall at once call the serious attention of Sawas Pasha to the facts mentioned in Monseigneur Khorinian's telegram, and shall send a copy of it to Major Trotter, in order that the statements it contains may be verified, and that he may make such representations as he may think necessary to the local authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 202.

The Armenian Patriarch to Sir A. H. Layard.

Le 7 Mai, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

LA famine n'a autant à effrayer la population de notre vilayet que les faits de pillages et de crimes commis par les Kurdes et leurs semblables, qui menacent encore aujourd'hui la dévastation complète de cette contrée. Ces Kurdes en entravant et paralysant les efforts des Comités institués soit à Constantinople, soit à Van, dans le but de porter des secours aux pauvres affamés, la famine s'aggrave de cette manière au lieu de s'apaiser. De sorte que, aussitôt le temps permette, ces malfaiteurs, suivant l'habitude de leur race, ont commencé à marcher sur les villages pour en prendre la trace de leurs pas par leurs distractions terribles.

Quoique les efforts de ces Comités font espérer à maîtriser le fléau, cependant si ces malfaiteurs continuent leur invasion, le pauvre cultivateur, dans sa terreur, sera obligé de fuir son foyer et d'abandonner son terrain pour laisser au plus courageux le sort d'une mort plus affreuse et navrante. Suivant le récit d'une délégation et le rapport à l'autorité locale, les cazas Erdjish, et particulièrement celui d'Adveldje-vay, dont la production céréale suffisait à nourrir les affamés de tout notre vilayet, furent tout dernièrement le lieu signalé d'invasion des Kurdes nommés Haydaranée. Ces Kurdes se jetant sur ces cazas après avoir fait brouter insatiablement et violemment leurs bêtes, et anéantir la production céréale et végétale, ont emporté une forte quantité de bêtes de labour, et ont fini par inspirer une telle terreur que le pauvre cultivateur, dans sa panique, ne pouvant se résoudre à reprendre ses travaux, a laissé son champ sans culture.

De même les Kurdes ont tué un paysan pendant qu'il labourait dans un des villages nommé Zako, district de Kiavarch, et ont pillé la semence de blé et les moulins appartenant à plusieurs paysans; ils ont en outre pillé la caravane, portant la nourriture que notre Commission envoyait pour être distribué parmi ces villageois affamés, en couvrant de blessures l'un des muletiers de la dite caravane, tandis qu'ils ont tué un second, et jeté un troisième, le frère de ce dernier, dans un ravin.

Les nouvelles toutes récentes arrivées d'Alpak, provenant des sources d'une grande confiance, informent que les Kurdes nommés Chakak ont pillé les villages d'Alpak et ravagé complétement les cultures.

En somme, on ne peut plus trouver des mots, et la plume ferait défaut, pour exposer et compter exactement tous les pillages, cruautés, et crimes qui en entravent l'ensemencement pendant qu'il en est temps pour empêcher dans l'avenir une famine encore plus terrible, poussent une population si tranquille à se désespérer et perdre complétement la patience.

Pourtant ces malfaiteurs, loin d'être punis, sont encore encouragés dans leurs actes par les autorités, car ceux qui tiennent dans leurs mains les rênes du Gouvernement, assistent comme des simples spectateurs en face des maux de ces envahisseurs, qui ont engendré la famine, et qui ravage l'Arménie.

Si les réformes réelles et radicales promises par Sa Majesté le Sultan ne sont pas promptement introduites et réalisées; si des mesures offenses ne sont pas prises sans perdre de temps pour empêcher ces maux, il est évidemment à craindre que cette fois-ci toute la population serait dispersée et perdue, et les efforts de secours aux affamés entamés par nos Comités obtiendraient aucun résultat.

Le Président du Comité aux Affaires de Van,
(Signé) KIEREMIAN.

No. 203.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 535.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 22, 1880.

I REPEATED to your Lordship on the 16th instant a telegram addressed to me by Lieutenant Chermside, in which he informed me that Baker Pasha was retained at Sivas for want of the means of meeting his travelling expenses; that 1,000*l.* arrears of pay were owing to him; that Said and Suleiman Pashas had been lately receiving double travelling allowances; and that, as the Mission might be detained indefinitely, Baker Pasha hoped I would take action in the matter.

I have made the strongest representations to Sawas Pasha as to the manner in which Baker Pasha has been treated. I have pointed out to his Excellency the flagrant injustice of leaving the Pasha without the means of fulfilling his mission, whilst Suleiman Pasha, the spy placed upon him, who appears to have been endeavouring to thwart all his attempts to do good and to improve the administration of the provinces into the state of which he has been sent by the Sultan to inquire, and his colleague, Said Pasha, have had their allowances increased. I have warned his Excellency that I should report the matter to Her Majesty's Government, and I left him to judge of the effect that it would have upon them, after all the promises to me with respect to the object of Baker Pasha's mission, which could only, under the circumstances I had brought to his notice, be considered by them as a fresh attempt to throw dust in the eyes of England.

His Excellency replied that he knew nothing of the detention of Baker Pasha at Sivas from want of a proper provision for his travelling expenses. He complained that the Pasha had not written to him on the subject, and promised that he would institute an immediate inquiry into the matter, and arrange that the necessary funds should be furnished. His Excellency denied that the salaries of the two functionaries who accompany Baker Pasha had been doubled, but Lieutenant Chermside's statement appears to apply to their travelling allowances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 204.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 1.)

(No. 537.)
My Lord,

Therapia, May 24, 1880.

KIAMIL PASHA, whose dismissal from the Governorship of Aleppo was obtained by me in consequence of his misconduct in the affair of Zeitoun and his ill-treatment of the Christians of that place, has been named by the Sultan Minister of the "Evkaf," or Pious Foundations, and been decorated with the Order of the Medjidié of the second class.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 205.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Earl Granville.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 29. Political.)
My Lord,

Beyrout, May 21, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Eldridge's despatch No. 9 of the 20th January, 1879, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on certain alterations that had been made in the Lebanon Budget in consequence of the withdrawal of the annual subvention paid by the Porte to the Lebanon Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure in No. 205.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Beyrout, May 21, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Eldridge's despatch No. 9 of the 20th January, 1879, reporting that instructions had been received by the Governor-General of Syria to suspend the payment of the subsidy due by the Sublime Porte to Mount Lebanon, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that a short time ago his Excellency Rustem Pasha, Governor-General of the Lebanon, sent in his Budget for the

financial year 1880-81, in which the subsidy figured at about £T. 6,000. This was the amount to which the sum had been reduced by various economies in the Lebanon administration. About a fortnight ago the Ministry of Finance returned the Budget to his Excellency Rustem Pasha, with orders that the subsidy should be struck out altogether, and that the Budget should be so arranged that the receipts and expenses should balance themselves. The Pasha was accordingly obliged to devise means by which this object might be accomplished. After considering various measures for the attainment of this end, he at last came to the conclusion that the only course open to him was to reduce the salaries of the employés, and to diminish the number of the militia. The salaries of the different functionaries of the Lebanon Government had already suffered a reduction of 10 per cent. by a recent order issued from the Sublime Porte. A further order had, within the last few days, been sent to the provinces, directing that 20 per cent. more should be deducted from all salaries. Rustem Pasha accordingly considered that one of the courses open to him for making the requisite economy would be to carry out this further order, and reduce the salaries of the employés to a total of 30 per cent. The other way left to him was to decrease the number of the militia, diminishing those at the seat of Government a little less than 600 men. A few years ago the number of these amounted to 850 men. In this manner the expenses of administration will be cut down so as to make the Budget balance itself, and will enable the Government of the Lebanon to be carried on independently of the Porte. But the Pasha, in thus reducing the expenses, has informed the Porte that he will not be responsible for the efficient discharge of their duties by inadequately paid functionaries, nor for the public safety by an insufficient number of militia to keep order. The different duties that have to be allotted to the militia and gendarmes, in order to look after the welfare and peace of the Lebanon, would keep the whole of the men employed with the exception of about 200, and this force his Excellency the Governor-General considers too small if required in a case of emergency. He thus will not guarantee the safety of the mountain.

The different races by which the Lebanon is inhabited, their various creeds, and the turbulent character of the people generally, as your Excellency well knows, makes the proper government of the mountain a matter of no small difficulty and anxiety.

As regards the reduction in the salaries of the employés, it is a question that deserves serious consideration. If the efficiency of the Civil Government of the Lebanon, as it has hitherto been carried on, be looked into, it would stand out in a very favourable light as compared with the other provinces of the Turkish Empire. The abuses which exist to such an alarming extent in the vilayets are unknown in the Lebanon. Life and property are protected, and the administration of justice is speedy and impartial. With the baneful example of corruption that exists in the surrounding Vilayet of Syria, it would become a serious matter to employ, in the Lebanon, underpaid officials. The reduction of salaries to which the Pasha has been obliged to resort is, therefore, a subject of sufficient gravity to make him shrink from being responsible for the consequences.

On the other hand, the independence of the Lebanon from all pecuniary assistance from the Sublime Porte is a question of sufficient importance, and much to be desired. The nature of the Lebanon Government under the "Règlement" almost necessitates such a measure. To attain this end and, at the same time, to keep an efficient administration, an increase in local taxation would be requisite. The inhabitants of the Lebanon, although generally poor, may be considered as in a flourishing state, as far as their wants and comforts are concerned, and a slight augmentation in the taxes would hardly be felt by them. When it is observed that the populations of the other provinces of the Ottoman Empire are so much more heavily taxed than the people of the Lebanon, a measure for such an increase will not appear so great a hardship. The independence, therefore, of the Lebanon from financial help from the Porte, and the efficiency in its administration, so as to secure justice, peace, and happiness to its inhabitants, are subjects which deserve consideration as opposed to any objections in regard to increased taxation, and I beg to place them before your Excellency.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 206.

Consul Biliotti to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received June 2.)

(No. 12. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, May 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Lordship the further information that I have obtained on the subject of the impending Christian emigration to Russia.

The Kaïmakam of Kerassoud telegraphed, under date of the 16th instant, to Sirri Pasha, that he had visited Ak-Koui, and ascertained that about forty families from that village had embarked for Russia on board a vessel belonging to a certain Makaradjoglou, and two smaller boats, which had been chartered by Captain Georgi, and the brother of the Delegate of the Greek Archbishop for 200*l.*; that the Christians being, at first, unwilling to embark, were induced to do so under the promise of being repatriated within three months, and that no doubt can exist as to the share of Captain Georgi and his accomplices in the departure of Christians, from the fact that a few days since a Russian officer (?) had spent some days in his house, and that the Delegate of the Greek Archbishop was going from village to village under the pretext of collecting church money.

Emin Effendi (the Commissioner for Immigration) telegraphed under the same date to the Governor-General from Ordoo of the departure of forty-seven Christian families from Bazar Sooi, though, he says, no Laz immigrants are in the district, and Christians are not subject to vexations, and hints that Captain Georgi, and his relative Makaradjoglou, are not foreign to their departure for Russia.

It is instructive to compare Turkish official statements with those contained in a letter addressed to myself, under date of the 14th instant, by an independent Mussulman, and which I translate verbatim:—

"At Boulandjik the Government officials are arbitrarily oppressing the population; they seize property held under title-deeds, and give it to whoever they please, or keep it for themselves, so that the inhabitants have lost all confidence. It is impossible to go to Kerassoud by land. Many acts of robbery and violence are perpetrated by Kara Ibrahim Aga and his sons, who continue to keep up the Dére Beylik in this quarter. They treat as they like the poor people, who seem to be helpless, and to possess nothing; most of the lands belonging to the Agas, they are employed as farmers, but have to work ten months for the Agas and only two for themselves. I cannot say that the people are satisfied with the Government, but they especially suffer from the heavy oppression of the Agas; Mussulmans as well as Christians shed tears of blood; it is impossible to convey an idea in writing; one should see the state of things. Among the Agas who oppress the people in the district of Aptal Gendek Ali Oglou Ahmed Agha (Kutlicaloglou, reference to despatch No. 9, Political) is the foremost; Mussulmans and Christians are crying; besides treating the people as slaves and beating them he even takes the lives of some of them; forty-five families of those living on his lands have, two days since, embarked for Russia, and there are other eighty families ready to depart; some Mussulman families have likewise decided to emigrate. The dissatisfaction of the population is not entirely caused by the Laz immigration, but is especially due to the oppression of the Agas, and, indeed, I conceive that the condition here is worse than at the time of the Janizaries. The people say that if nothing be done to remedy the present state of things they will all emigrate."

I have shown this letter to the Governor-General, and strongly urged upon him the advisability of not relying implicitly on the reports of his subordinates, but either to go himself, or send a person of confidence to make an inquiry into, and try by all possible means to put a stop to this disgraceful state of things.

Sirri Pasha seems to have lost, in the present circumstance, the great energy which he had hitherto displayed in his conduct. He says that he can trust no one, and that he cannot absent himself from Trebizond from fear of further complications. But my impression is, that as he received strong remonstrances from the Porte (despatch No. 5, Political) on the subject of the Laz immigrants, he is afraid to take the initiative in any question in which they are, directly or indirectly, concerned; he therefore limits his action to report the daily occurrences to the Porte, which, on its side, does not seem, so far as I know, to heed what takes place.

In a letter which the Greek Archbishop has just received from Kerassoud it is stated that the forty-five or fifty families that emigrated on the 13th instant from Bazar Sooi met on their way the Cadi, the head of the police, and the secretary of the Mudir.

They told the emigrants that they might depart if they wanted, but that they could not do so before paying the numerous arrears due to the Government; they took from them whatever money they chose, but it remains to be seen whether the sums thus collected will ever appear in the Government accounts. When these same emigrants reached the sea-shore, they had the bad luck to fall in with six Laz boats, whose crews despoiled them of all they possessed, and they embarked quite destitute. It is feared that the Laz boats in question will perpetrate other piracies.

It is further reported to the Greek Archbishop that seventy-five Christian families from Demirdji-keui had chartered a vessel, and intended to embark yesterday; and that four Mussulman families were amongst the emigrants who lately departed for Russia.

Reports from other parts of the province do not give a brighter account of the situation, but I have no reliable details, except from Atina, which is eastward of Trezibond, and the population of which is exclusively Mussulman.

The inhabitants likewise complain that the lands they hold, in force of regular title deeds, are seized by the authorities and given over to the Lazes.

Several inhabitants of Atina were imprisoned for having destroyed huts which had been erected on their lands by the Commissioners for the immigration; the huts were re-erected, but as the Mussulmans in that region are desperate characters, serious conflicts may take place.

They have just addressed a petition to the Porte and to the Governor-General, begging that no Lazes from Batoum (they are themselves Lazes) should be located in their district, or, at all events, in very limited numbers; and that some individuals, of notorious bad characters, who have lately settled there and are already troubling public peace, should be expelled from the country.

Complete disorganization seems to prevail all over this vilayet, and the task of restoring order appears to be beyond the power of the local authorities. If, as I think, Sirri Pasha has still the will, he has no longer the necessary authority to act under his own responsibility. The powers of Valis, far from being curtailed, as they have been, should, on the contrary, have been extended in the present circumstances. As it is, instead of receiving support from Constantinople, the Governors of the provinces are rather discouraged in their good intentions, and they seem to despair themselves of ever arriving at a satisfactory result.

Under these circumstances, increased disorders can only be expected, and it is impossible to foresee how far they may extend; but they might reach much further than it is imagined.

If the Porte be desirous to restore order, energetic measures should be adopted. A conscientious and immediate inquiry should be made to ascertain the extent of the evil of which the populations complain, and the necessary remedy should be applied without any loss of time. But the means to be employed, in order to arrive at this result, should be others than those usually resorted to. Obsequious Medjlisses and venal officials will always conceal the truth.

If possible, specially qualified individuals should be selected, and their suggestions carried out with a sincere desire to root abuses and vexations.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 207.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 8.)

(No. 15. Political.)

Van, May 4, 1880.

Sir,

FRESH news continues to come in of robberies and outrages on the part of the Kurds. An Armenian Bishop, who has recently arrived from Soort, reported to me that in Khizan, about half-way between Soort and Bitlis, an attack had been made on a village, the Melek, or Headman, killed, and the village plundered. To-day I have heard that on the border between the districts of Moks and Soort two villages have been attacked and plundered, two men being killed and others wounded. These attacks are said to have been made by Kurds who were exiled by Abeddin Pasha and afterwards allowed to return, and who have come home vowing vengeance against the peasantry to whose complaints they consider their exile to have been due. More than one instance has also occurred of persons who have come here to obtain corn being robbed of it all again on their way home to their villages. I spoke seriously to the Commissioners three days ago about the necessity of taking some measures to secure the peasantry and the roads, and I shall

request to be informed of the steps that are taken. The authorities appear, however, very apathetic.

The Government has allotted from its stores a certain proportion of grain to the several distressed districts, which the villagers have to fetch, bringing with them a paper from the local authorities showing the amount to which they are entitled. This arrangement is apparently a good one, but unfortunately it is not successful in its carrying out. Several days ago a number of villagers from Morduz came to me saying they had come with the proper papers from their local authorities, that the Government here had then directed them to go to Gawash, a long day's journey from here, and obtain their grain from the Government stores at that place. They went, and the Kaïmakam there refused to obey the order to give them corn, saying he had none to spare. I took the men to the Commissioners and the Vali, and they said that they were greatly vexed that the Kaïmakam did not obey their orders, and that they would send a special officer with the men to see that the corn was given. Yesterday the men came back to me and said that they had been again to Gawash and that they were still refused, and that four of their number had died on the way back. I relieved their immediate wants from the means at my disposal, and shall bring the matter again before the authorities, but for the last three days the Government offices have been closed on account of the Armenian Easter holidays.

Complaints have reached me that while the Kurds and Turks obtain corn at once direct from the magazines at Van, the Christians are sent to Gawash, Pergri, and other outlying places, and when they get there are not supplied. I mentioned this to the Commissioners, and their explanation was that certain magazines had been allotted to certain districts, and it was therefore quite possible that Kurds from the districts to which the Van magazines had been allotted might have been seen getting their corn, while Christians from another district had been sent elsewhere, and were naturally not very pleased, but that no favouritism is shown. I hope this is correct, but when one sees how the Christians always go to the wall, it is impossible to banish all suspicion of unfairness.

An Armenian from Bashkala, late a member of the Medjliss there, was with me yesterday. He had come as a deputation to complain to the authorities here of the conduct of the Military Commandant of Bashkala. He says that this man has lately taken to oppressing the villagers to a very great extent. He rides round, forcing them to give contributions of food, &c., and gives vouchers only for a small proportion of what he takes. When appeals for mercy on account of poverty are made to him, he says that is no business of his, and that he must do his duty to his Government. Complaints have been made to the Mutessarif, Toussoun Pasha, who remonstrates with the Commandant, but nothing further. Lately a caravan arrived from Persia with six loads of rice, the whole of which the Commandant seized for the troops. The Mutessarif was asked that part might be allowed to go to the people. He sent for the Commandant, and requested him to leave a part for the people, but the Commandant paid no attention. I believe Toussoun Pasha wishes to do right, though one can never be quite certain one is not being deceived; therefore I can only attribute his inaction to his being hampered by superior orders. I shall bring the matter before the Commissioners.

Every day I am becoming more confirmed in my opinion, that no real amelioration can take place in the condition of the country until the Turkish Government is made to appoint a sufficient number of European officials with executive power.

The famine continues to increase, as also the number of peasants thronging into Van from the country to seek food. The Government stores are nearly exhausted, and the consequences will be very serious if supplies cannot be obtained from the Bitlis Vilayet or elsewhere. The price of wheat now is equivalent to 8*l.* sterling per quarter and even more. The Vali of Bitlis still refuses to allow corn to be sent from Mush.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 208.

Captain Stewart to Sir A. H. Layard.—(Received at the Foreign Office, June 8.)

(No. 12. Political.)

Sivas, May 12, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that the elections are now going on here for the Idaré and other Medjlisses. This is the first time elections have been held for the last seven years.

2. I regret to have to inform you that there is every probability of the old members being again returned—amongst others, Mehemet Ali and his gang. The evil influence of

this man is so great, and he is so much dreaded by the people, that it is almost hopeless to expect any other result. Mehemet Ali has for many years been the King of this province, and his word has been law. He has agents scattered throughout the country, in the different local Assemblies, who are bound to carry out his behests. Similar to all his class, he has used his official position as a means of furthering his own ends, and enriching himself and his partisans, totally regardless of the ruin and misery he causes. Many of his agents are thieves and vagabonds, who exert a terrorism over the rest of the population.

3. The Armenian Bishop has protested manfully against this man's return, and has appealed to Constantinople. There is, however, but little doubt how the authorities there will treat his remonstrance.

4. I have represented the matter to the Vali, but he declines to act, stating he cannot interfere with the freedom of elections; that there are no specified charges against Mehemet Ali; that he has many supporters; that the Catholic Armenians are in his favour, &c. If the Vali felt that his position depended less on caprice and intrigue; if he were certain of being backed up at Constantinople, and convinced that money spent there in intrigues would prove unsuccessful, and if he were given more latitude to act according to his discretion, and, above all, his responsibility more brought home to him, it is probable that the result might have been different. In the hands of an upright and determined functionary I have no hesitation in thinking it would be so.

5. This is another instance of how utterly unsuited to the people is this system of elections, and of how little it is understood by them. Practically, the only difference between the present system and the one formerly prevailing is, that formerly the people were in the hands of the Pasha, who might be good or bad, according to his character, and that now they are under the control of some local magnate, usually a perfectly unscrupulous man. In the one case, there was always a chance of their getting rid of their master by dismissal or removal; in the latter, no matter what outrages, or even crimes he commits, the Notable remains their life-long tyrant. So long as he takes the usual means of securing his position, it is perfectly immaterial how detestable his conduct may be.

6. Until the system changes at Constantinople, and officials and Notables are taught that they can be severely punished, as well as temporarily dismissed or allowed to resign; that a judiciously-placed bribe will not avail them in their hour of need, and that honesty and straightforward dealing is the best policy, I fail to see how any (however skilfully devised) measure to diminish the powers of these Notables can be of much avail. Where the people are so timid and so willing to put their neck to the yoke individuals will always be found only too willing to assist them in doing so. If one Notable is, after great trouble, dismissed, another will be found ready to take his place, probably more corrupt than the preceding one. Governors and other officials, either from interested motives or from fear of their revenge and intrigues, will decline to meddle with them, and they will be left to rob and plunder as much as it suits them.

7. As regards the settlement of the emigrants, of whom there are said to be some 26,000 in the vilayet, I am afraid nothing has or will be done. I have brought the matter on several occasions to the notice of his Excellency the Vali, who has been profuse in his promises of taking the matter up. I have pointed out to him the grave responsibility he incurs; that every day's dely in dealing with the matter increases the difficulty; that these people, having been living now for some considerable time at free quarters, will have acquired lazy and indolent habits, and how great a burden their maintenance is on the miserable Mahommedan peasantry. Notwithstanding the promises of the Vali, I am convinced nothing will be done; the solution of such a problem being quite beyond the organizing powers, energy, and local knowledge of the Turkish official. It is probable that the emigrants will be allowed to settle themselves as best they can; many will probably die, others will turn robbers, and what might have tended to the strengthening of the Empire will only hasten its further dissolution. Last year, two emigrant officials, on a united salary of 26,000 piastres a-month, besides travelling allowances, were sent here from Constantinople. These gentlemen did little else but eat, sleep, and draw their allowances. Had their salaries been devoted to assisting the emigrants, buying agricultural implements, &c., and all responsibility thrown on the Vali, the matter might now perhaps be in a fair way of settlement. As it is, there are now no funds at the Vali's disposal for this purpose; the time for sowing the spring crop has passed, and the Government ration of corn has ceased since the 31st March, so that the emigrants are now living almost completely on the peasantry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) D. H. STEWART.

No. 209.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 8.*)

(No. 529.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 19, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which has been addressed by Mr. Vice-Consul Clayton to Captain Trotter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 209.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 13. Political.)
Sir, *Van, April 20, 1880.*

I HAVE received a letter from Mar Shimoun, of which I inclose a translation. I, to-day, placed it before the Imperial Commissioners and they sent for the men who had brought it and examined them, obtaining corroborative evidence of the truth of the statements contained in the letter. I called their particular attention to the conduct of the Kaimakam of Julamerik, as complaints are continually being made of him, and pointed out his notorious unfitness for his position. The Commissioners promised the Nestorians to examine into the matter and also to give them assistance against famine. They said to me, however, that as regards Hassan Bey, the Kaimakam, they were in great difficulties, as a new order had been received reducing all official salaries by a half, and if they removed Hassan Bey it would be impossible to obtain for 1,000 piastres a-month, to which the salary of Kaimakam of Julamerik would now be reduced, an honest man to be put in his place. I have no great hopes of anything being done, not only for this reason but also because Hassan Bey belongs to the powerful Van family of the Temur Oghlu, whose influence is so great that no one dares interfere with them.

Every day is making more clear the unsatisfactory character of the present judicial arrangements, already alluded to in my despatches No. 6, Political, of the 16th February, 1880, and No. 9, Political, of the 2nd March, 1880. Yesterday I was informed that three Kurdish Chiefs, Derbaz Agha (not the Derbaz Agha spoken of in my despatch No. 31, Political, of the 30th December, 1879, whose extradition by the Persian Government is desired, but, I believe, a relative), Khatto, and Temur Agha, the first two of whom had been in prison and the third under surveillance, had been released, the Mutdai Umumu, or Procureur-General, having declared that no petition against them existed. This is untrue, for numerous petitions and complaints have been made against all three, but the proceedings have been delayed till the poor petitioners have had to return to their villages, being unable to live longer here, so no case is declared. The fact is the Kurdish Chiefs have very powerful protectors; some, if not all, of them profit by their robberies. The Temur Oghlu and Hajji Mustapha Effendi always do their best to protect the Kurds, and Samih Pasha has for an Aide-de-camp a Kurd, Bahri Bey, son of the notorious Beder Khan Bey, and is believed to exert his influence in their favour. The conduct of the Mutdai Umumu is also very much complained of. It is said that whenever a Kurd or Turk is tried for any crime against Christians he plays the part of Advocate of the accused and tries his best to get him off; but if the accused is a Christian he does his utmost to get a conviction. The judicial system is in fact a farce so far as the administration of equal justice is concerned. It is not of the slightest use having the most elaborate system of appeals and such like machinery when those who work it have no desire to execute justice. And it is now impossible to make any impression on the course of justice, or rather of iniquity. The Vali says that the administration of justice is now entirely beyond his control, and the Commissioners to-day told me, when I spoke to them about the release of the three Kurds, that they had lately received special instructions not to interfere with judicial matters. Although there seems to be a fixed determination, while making a specious show, to carry out no real reform, and to do nothing to ameliorate the condition of the Christians.

There is also very great danger to be apprehended of Kurdish depredations and outrages now that the country is beginning to open in the spring. The Kurds have suffered from the famine as well as others, and there is no doubt that they will try to recoup themselves for their losses by plunder. An agent sent by the Armenian

Charitable Committee to Nurduz and Shaddakh has sent word that the Kurds in those parts are openly threatening that they will seize any supplies that may be sent there for the suffering peasantry. And the Government, I do not believe to have the means, even if it had the will, to keep them in order. The troops have been reduced to a minimum on account of the difficulty and expense of feeding them, and are utterly insufficient to keep order throughout the country. An inhabitant of Bashkala who came here to buy corn has already been robbed and murdered on his way back.

The famine prospects are also very bad. Mr. Barnum, the American missionary, who is now at Bashkala, sent a letter a day or two ago, saying that the people are many of them utterly despondent, too much so to care much about relief, being convinced they must die before long, and it had better be at once. To-day the ex-Patriarch Chrimian showed me a letter he had just received from Ohannes Vartabed, the principal Armenian ecclesiastic at Bashkala, dated the 20th March, giving a statement of the deaths up to that time from famine in fourteen villages round Bashkala. In three of these there had been no deaths; in the other eleven had died 11 men, 41 women, and 107 children. Khoshab, Nurduz, and Shaddakh seem to be in a similar condition, and Mar Shimoun's letter describes the state of things about Julamerik as little better.

Without wishing to exaggerate the evils of the situation, a dispassionate survey of the state of things shows but a gloomy prospect for the future of the districts lying east, south-east, and south of Van. The Commissioners have said to me that they hoped to be able to keep the people alive till next harvest; but upon being asked the basis of their calculations, said they expected to be able to obtain 15,000 Constantinople kilés of grain from the Government stores of Mush. But this amount is only about 1,230 bushels. According to some statistics that have been given me by the Armenians, the male populations of the districts most oppressed by famine are, including Turks, Armenians, Kurds, and Nestorians:—

	Males.
Shaddakh	9,000
Nurduz	4,500
Bashkala	19,000
Jerver	11,000
Koshab	5,000
	48,500

Of the population of these districts, I believe it would be under the mark to say that one-half are now or will be in a few days absolutely without anything to eat.

Of the population of Julamerik I have no reliable statistics.

The Commissioners' 1,230 bushels will go but a little way towards feeding this population till next harvest. It is true they trust somewhat to dairy produce and other sorts of food that will be forthcoming in the spring. But the greater part of the animals have either been killed for food already, or have died for want of forage, so the supply of animal food and dairy produce will be but little, and the people are not in the habit of growing many vegetables, so they will have little seed of that kind. The Commissioners also talk of obtaining supplies from Persia if the stores they have do not suffice; but in the embarrassed condition of the Government finances, I do not see where the money is to come from for this purpose, and it must be remembered that, though the districts I have named are the worst off, yet there is much distress in several others, and in Van itself a large number have to be fed either by Government or private charity. As regards charity, though it is doing something, it does not appear likely to be able at all to cope with the general needs.

Moreover, very little land has been sown in the distressed districts, and it will be absolutely impossible now to provide seed for spring sowing. Every bushel that can be got will be required to save the people from starvation, so there will be but a scanty harvest this autumn again.

Further, almost all beasts of burden have died or been killed for food, and there is no corn or forage on the routes, so that the transport of supplies from a distance will be beset with difficulties. Therefore I see no prospect of the corn grown in Mush, Boulanyk, Arjesh, &c., which is now selling at the enormous price of 1½ Turkish lira per chap, the chap being from 85 lb. to 100 lb., getting much cheaper. In this case, the condition of people who are not well off, but still not poor enough to be on the lists for the purchase of corn from Government at a cheap rate, will soon be very deplorable. The market price of bread in Van is now 5 silver piastres the oke, equivalent to about 3½*d.* per lb.

Altogether, what with immediate famine, insufficient means for averting it,

difficulties of importation from elsewhere, prospects of another insufficient harvest, and the certainty of Kurdish troubles, it appears to me as if the population, especially the Christian part, of the suffering districts were doomed to destruction unless some much more efficient power than the bankrupt Turkish Government steps in, and I do not believe such a destruction of the Christian population would be highly displeasing to the Turks generally.

The difficulty is not in the numbers of the population that are suffering, but in the transport difficulties, and in the character and circumstances of the Turkish Government.

Complaints have also reached me that the officials sent to make returns for the sheep tax are forcing the Christians to sign papers representing the number of their sheep as the same as last year, regardless of the losses that have been suffered. It is said also that the Kurds are not so treated, but this statement requires investigation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 209.

Mar Shimoun to Captain Clayton.

(Translation.)

Honourable Consul of Great Britain, *Kotchhannis, March* 27, 1880.

IS it possible for a man to endure such oppressions who is not stone but has flesh and blood? And will he not appeal to God and to any human righteous Court of Justice to obtain help and protection? Yes, he will do so, or he had better die like a man when his voice is not heard; enough that God is witness of it. The district of Gevver is quite Nestorian and contains twenty-one villages, which have been in these four years twice or three times in the year plundered by the Kurds of Neri,* by Shikaks and Harikis. The district of Alpag,† which is also Nestorian and contains twelve villages, is every year plundered five or six times by the Shikaks and Mazgi Kurds. Besides, Havzullah Bey not only plunders these villages, but he forcibly drives away the poor Christian villagers from their cottages and gives them to Kurds. This man, whom the Government neglects to punish, has not, as the Mazgis, 200 to 300 families, but has only three houses, or ten persons altogether. As to the districts of Julamerik, Diar, and Dkhub, where the Christians hardly can enjoy one of their ten rights, the Local Government accuses them of being in revolt and proposes to attack this district, to burn the houses, and to kill the Christians. The districts of Bervari, Livin, and Khans-dal can neither enjoy any right, nor does the Government permit them to raise up the voice of their lamentations, and the people thinking that if they had wept bitterly, their voice would have been heard and they would have been violently deprived of their lives, have not had courage to make complaints. Alas! if they had made complaints they would not have suffered so much. What are the causes of their sufferings? I will write here about them in detail. The Ashiret of Kenkánish‡ not only always plunders the district of Dal, but it sends, twice yearly, agents to the villages of this district, in order to collect taxes; from 100 to 200 piastres from each house, which the poor villagers twice a-year pay, besides the heavy taxes they pay to the Government. The district of Livin has suffered much from the Ashirets of Hardushi, Jergiy, and Mamkhoran. Besides, the people of this district have been, in these past four months, thrice plundered by the hands of the Local Government. The districts of Khannans and Bervari, after being four or five times plundered by Amo Rasho Mahmed Bey and Ahmed Agha, of Julamerik (of whom complaints have been made several times to the authorities of Julamerik and Bashkala, but without any effect), have been since the last autumn four times plundered under the pretext of the regular troops. They say, namely, that the soldiers have not provisions, and send forty or fifty men to each village, where, in the name of the regular troops, they take forcibly bread, butter, sheep, and whatever else they meet with and carry them away, and then the people must buy from the soldiers their own bread by money, in order to be able to save their families. Consequently, some people were obliged to emigrate to the country called Bahdiman. But lo! the troops have again no bread, and the soldiers come again to fetch bread from the villages; while the poor villagers have nothing at all to eat, and must go out into the fields to dig out the roots of a plant which they eat. The soldiers beat the people vehemently,

* Sheikh Obeyd Ullah's men. ‡ Bashkala.

† *Query*, Pinyanish.

and some thirty to forty women miscarry, whose husbands, seeing the cruelty of the soldiers, flee to the mountains, where they die from the dismal cold. Why have the troops not bread? I will write about this matter too. You may conclude, knowing the quantity of corn which has been sent from Van and Giavash, for how many troops it could be sufficient. What has become, then, of such a quantity of corn? I will tell you. Whenever the loads of corn sent from Van arrived here, Hassan Bey, the Kaimakam of Julamerik, and the members of the Medjliss, who form a Society, took the half of them and carried them home. They have appointed a man named Mzdo, who is their skilful agent, as overseer of the bakery. He obtains 9 or 10 okes of corn daily for the needs of 350 soldiers. This quantity of corn would give at any rate 800 okes of bread, but he has not given ever 300 okes per day, and about 500 okes of bread have daily entered into the pockets of Hassan Bey and the members of the Medjliss. Finally, when the officials in January last have brought bread on the backs of the poor villagers, some of whom died, it has again been given into the hands of the above-mentioned Mzdo. Yet it was not enough; some troops were removed and ordered to Van, but they went as far as Kilagoni and returned again, plundering the villages on the way. They carried away all they met with, and slaughtered even the new-born lambs. More than 300 [*sic*] villagers, whom they have compelled to carry their things on their shoulders for eight days, they have killed, beating them violently, whose corpses still are found on the way. When they arrived in Julamerik they put for the night in every village, especially in Paga and Khanamis, two soldiers before each house, and at dawn they broke into the houses and plundered and carried off all sorts of provisions, clothes, and whatever they could find. Who can describe the terror and lamentation of the women and the children? If they had fled to the mountains they surely would have died, they therefore resolved to remain rather in their homes and die there than go away.

Sir, since the autumn ten to fifteen persons have daily died from starvation, and, at present, twenty to twenty-five die every day in our country. I shall not cease to request the price of the blood of these poor people, being sure that righteous Courts of Justice do not fail for us. And now I am afraid those who live by eating grass will die too. I therefore beg you for your friendly assistance. Please let us have, for God's sake and for the glory of your philanthropy, an order to shorten the murderous hands of our Local Government. Pray also to grant some provisions for the benefit of more than 10,000 defenceless Christians at least for one month, if possible, from the Government, if not by the means of the subscriptions of the merciful Christians. Help us and save these 10,000 people. If you are kind enough to accomplish these our two entreaties, as soon as possible, you will have saved fifty persons per day, and we shall be, with all our nation, much obliged to you for your philanthropic assistance.

I am, &c.
(Signed) MAR SHIMOUN.

No. 210.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 547. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a very interesting private letter addressed to me by Baker Pasha. I venture to recommend it to your Lordship's particular attention, as it affords the fullest and most trustworthy information as to the condition of that part of Asiatic Turkey which he has visited, and contains suggestions for the application of the only measures which can put an end to a state of things which is rapidly bringing to complete ruin one of the richest parts of the Empire. In these suggestions I entirely agree.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 210.

Baker Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
My dear Sir Henry, *Sivas, May 13, 1880.*

I NOW send you, as I promised, a more complete view of the general state of the country through which my Mission has passed since I wrote from Diarbekir. I will also briefly state the measures that appear to me necessary in order to save this country from absolute ruin. These measures I have already forwarded to the Porte in my Report on the Vilayet of Diarbekir. There are others which I will mention, but which I propose to embody in my general Report, after having visited Erzeroum, and, I trust, Van. We went down the Tigris on kelleks. Diarbekir seems to have fallen away much in importance within the last forty years. I see that Rawlinson and other authorities, in their evidence before the Euphrates Valley Parliamentary Committee, gave its population 35,000. It is now only 18,000. The strategical position is extremely faulty. It is very unhealthy, and I consider that no importance whatever should be attached to it in any scheme for opening up the country by means of railways. We stopped at Avueta, a village on the Tigris, about eight hours from Sert, and I explored all the country between the Batman and Redowes Rivers. We found a very extraordinary natural military position lying between those rivers, naturally protected on all sides. I returned to Sert. The whole country is in an absolute state of neglect, and the bridges over the branches of the Bokhtan Su made by Ismail Hakki Pasha already fallen in and impassable. The road between Sert and Bitlis, which is so important as connecting Van with the south, has now ceased to be passable for mules without unloading at different points, yet no attempt is made to repair it. We returned to Avarte, and went to Djezireh, as you know I received instructions to come northwards to Sivas and Erzeroum. But I went off on a trip to the new coal-mine at Kharboul, in the Kokhlan mountain north of Zacho. It is in the same state as everything that is worked by Turkish officials, but there is a plentiful supply of coal that can be easily worked from the surface. The coal is bituminous, but would suit well for river navigation or a railway. The mine lies 30 miles from the Tigris. We returned by Ana to Djezireh, Chermside going on by river to Mosul. All this Bokhtan district has been mapped out into administrative divisions, but the Government officials have not even a show of authority. The Christians, mostly Chaldean Catholics, complain sadly, but not more than the Mussulman Kurds. In nearly every case I found the mischief was traceable to Kurd Chiefs having the protection of Government officials. I have been pleased to find that throughout my journey the Mussulman population come to me with their complaints with perfect confidence. Three-fourths of the complaints which I have received come from Mussulmans, and I have no hesitation in saying that the Mussulmans are in a much worse condition, and more ill-treated, than the Christians. This proceeds from the fear on the part of the officials that the oppression of the latter will be brought to the notice of the Ambassadors at Constantinople. But all have only too terrible cause of complaint. The irregularities in the collection of the taxes, more especially the "verghi," in the greater part of the Diarbekir Vilayet are painfully apparent. The new survey or "cadastre" has only been completed in a few districts. The villages have, for the most part, fallen into ruin since the old survey. But the collectors claim the original assessed amount of taxes; and the collectors, in league with the Moukhtars, often make the poor villager pay twice over. The latter get no receipts for any payments they make. Occasionally a village refuses, and drives away the collectors. Then the troops are called up, men, women, and children are shot down, and the village utterly pillaged, if not destroyed; where the survey has been completed this state of things does not exist, but it is only too prevalent. The general corruption of nearly all the Government officials, their utter want of patriotism or any interest in the country, and the absence of all sense of duty, makes one perfectly heartsick. Until this can be corrected, it is useless to talk of reforms. Yet when the clearest cases of abuse and fraud occur, the Idaré Medjliss, in nine cases out of ten, strives by delay to protect the offenders, and no wonder, for they are all corrupt. I have quite come to the conclusion that the power of these local Medjlisses should be curtailed, and that they should be deprived of all judicial authority. I went from Djezireh to Nisibin by the desert. Some 30 years ago the Government built a large barrack at Nisibin, and kept a military force there. The Kurds, expecting some security, and well aware of the value of the desert soil, came down from the mountains and built villages. Two hundred villages sprung up in the Nisibin Caza, in fact, it is the most thickly-populated

district that I have seen in Turkey. It shows clearly what the desert might become. I have carefully compared the yield of the soil in the different districts we have passed through. With the miserable system of agriculture everywhere in vogue, I find as follows:—Mountain uplands, 3 to 4; but upland plains such as Kharpout, Sivas, &c., 7 to 10; the desert 15. The Government has of late years withdrawn the troops from Nisibin. The Arabs have recommenced their annoyance and pillage. The villages are all falling into ruins. Nisibin itself, once a flourishing little town, has now barely 1,000 inhabitants, and is in rapid process of decay.

We came up the beautiful Dehadschaba River to Midiad. Hadgo, a brigand Chief, but whose band curiously enough is principally composed of Syrian Jacobite Christians, keeps the whole of the Medean country in a ferment. The wretched zaptiehs cannot catch him or discover his band. Many of the notables are in league with the brigands. I have strongly urged the absolute necessity of breaking up his band, and a company of soldiers has been sent. I had the direct road from Djezireh to Midiad surveyed, and also that from Midiad to Diarbekir, pushing on myself by Hevrukolf and the Batman River to Larkin, and so by Hazrah, Hydscha, and Hini to Argana Maaden. The condition of upper country, though less disastrous than that further south, is very unsatisfactory. The survey here has been nearly completed. But the officials employed in making it have immensely overrated all those who would not give them "backshish." Hence great suffering. Nearly all the officials in the Diarbekir Vilayet are local men having local interests. The whole vilayet may be said to be in the hands of certain Diarbekir notables who sit on the Idaré Medjliss. Unless the Vali is a man of strong character, he soon becomes completely influenced by these local Medjlisses. Poor Izzet Pasha, a soldier without any administrative capacity, is completely in the hands of his notables. The whole system of these Medjlisses, excellent in theory, is utterly false in practice. The elections are a mere farce. As the Vali is also Mutessarif of the Central Sandjak, his whole time is taken up by questions of administrative detail that should never come before him. He rarely or never visits any part of his vilayet, he sees nothing for himself, and generally settles down into that indolent and apathetic life which is so thoroughly in consonance with Turkish habits. I very carefully examined the Argana Maaden and the Keber Maaden. The former, if properly developed and worked, might prove a mine of wealth, and the latter, but to a much less degree, might be remunerative. Coal-mines have been found near to each. I am proposing to the Porte to give over all these mines to any company that will make the railway between Iskenderun and Bussora. My own impression is, after a very careful examination and consideration, that the railway should run direct from Iskenderun, by Harran, through Northern Mesopotamia, passing about 15 miles from Aleppo, 30 from Orfa, and 15 from Mardin, with a branch to each of those places, and so by Mosul and Kerkouk to Bagdad. It would thus be only 100 miles longer than the Euphrates Valley line. I would also propose a branch by Marash, Malatin, and Kharpout, to open out the mining districts. I will send you, hereafter, a paper I have drawn up on this subject. I found on passing through Kharpout, Malatin, and this Sivas district, that they are decidedly in a more prosperous condition than the country further south, but the difference is merely comparative. All the faults and abuses of administration are as rampant here as elsewhere.

I will now give you a more complete sketch than I have before sent relative to the measures that I have recommended in order to remedy the present almost hopeless condition of the country. I am convinced that the first and most important and immediately requisite reform is to open up the internal communications of the country by railway, where possible, and by carriageable roads. No real progress will be made until this is done. The people would readily work according to the law could they see any result from their labour, but up to the present it has only served as a means for abuse and corruption by which the employés of the Government enrich themselves without producing any result for the public good. I believe that if the system adopted between Beyrout and Damascus were generally applied, slightly modified so as to press less hardly upon local traffic, something might be accomplished. Whatever is done must be done by European companies. I am quite convinced that it is utterly and absolutely hopeless to expect that any improvement will be carried out by Turkish officials unaided by European assistance and directions.

With regard to the general administrations of the country I have recommended:—

1. A general system of decentralization.

2. That the Vali shall no longer be Mutessarif of the Central Sandjak, and shall be occupied exclusively with the affairs of their vilayets. A general and compulsory system of personal inspections and reports to be made by Valis, Mutessarifs, Kaimakams, and Mudirs of their several districts.

3. That the local administrative Medjlisses shall merely be called together for six weeks in each year. That their judicial functions shall be abolished. Government officials to be tried by a movable Court of Assize, which should also replace the present provincial Courts of Appeal. A Court of Assize to meet for every two or three vilayets.

4. The formation of a Civil Service College at Constantinople, which shall be the only means of entering the administrative service, and from which an employé once expelled can never re-enter. Colleges to be established at the head-quarters of each vilayet, eligible to those who have passed the best examinations in the Rushdieh and Christian schools. The best pupils of these vilayet colleges to have the entry of the central Civil Service College at Constantinople.

5. That until this system is in full working order Administrative Inspectors shall be appointed. These must be Englishmen, and, to my mind, English officers lent by the British Government. Each Inspector might have two or three vilayets. Men like Trotter, Chermside, &c., would be eminently qualified for these posts.

6. The formation of a proper gendarmerie and a municipal police, paid by the Municipalities. The gendarmerie I have written about and telegraphed about continually. I get no replies, nor can I learn that any serious steps are being taken. The force is in a deplorable state. The supposed reform was a mere sham, and it is as ill-paid and in as bad a condition as it ever was.

As you know, I have long ago pointed out the necessary reforms and drawn up the regulations, but there seems not the slightest disposition to move in the matter. Yet it is of paramount importance.

7. A proper survey and census, which shall bring order into the payment of taxation, making it purely individual, and giving receipts for all payments.

8. A general improvement of the system of education. Primary schools to be compulsory in each village of 50 houses, and Rushdieh schools in every town of 400 houses.

The education in Mussulman schools at present is very defective, except as regards the study of Persian and Arabic.

9. Attention to the woods and forests. These are gradually dwindling down. You would see an immense change in the south since you knew it. In fact, the country is gradually but slowly becoming a desert.

10. Modification in the present system of justice, and making it more applicable to the wants of the country.

11. Improvements in commerce and agriculture.

12. The strongest measures to be taken to crush the present corruption of Government officials. I would propose to repeal the law which makes the offerer of a bribe punishable. It prevents all evidence against a corrupt official from being forthcoming.

This is but a very brief sketch of my recommendations. I am anxious to make Government appointments certain for five years. It is a very important reform, but the administrative service must first be a little purified, or it would give permanence to a host of dishonest officials.

As I wrote to you before, I can see no absolute difficulties in the way of applying these reforms except the dogged and determined resistance at Constantinople.

I find everywhere a most hostile feeling on the part of the public of all creeds and races towards the Government, but, in my opinion, this will not, for a long time, ever culminate in a serious revolt. Perhaps it may be more likely to do so among the Arabs, but I doubt it. Only think what the public have borne during the last three years—war, famine, repudiation of the caimé, depreciation of the copper and beshlik, and every kind of maladministration. Yet they seem as patient as ever.

It is sad indeed to see a country possessing such natural resources, yet sinking gradually into utter ruin through a want of the most ordinary care, foresight, and energy. It seems to me that the financial difficulties must soon bring matters to a climax.

We are feeling the pressure here, for, anxious as I am to push on to Erzeroum, I cannot get any order for travelling expenses for myself, although I have telegraphed repeatedly. It is very annoying, as it causes delay. The Porte now owes me personally £T. 1,000, yet they manage to pay Said and Suleiman Pashas regularly, and allow double the travelling expenses which they give me as Chief of the Mission.

Yours truly,

(Signed) V. BAKER.

No. 211.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 555.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 26, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 503 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna, on the subject of the appointment of Financial Inspectors in the Vilayet of Aidin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 211.

Consul Dennis to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 27.)
Sir, *Smyrna, May 19, 1880.*

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to state that the only information I have been able to obtain respecting the Financial Inspectors of this vilayet is as follows:—

About seven months ago Ali Riza Bey, M. Goron, and Mustafa Effendi were appointed Financial Inspectors. The first and last-named gentlemen made several official tours in this vilayet, and the three together inspected the accounts of the Custom-house, the Konak, and other Government offices of Smyrna. About a month ago Ali Riza Bey and Mustafa Effendi were transferred in the same capacity to Salonica, and Giron Effendi was appointed the Chief Financial Inspector for this vilayet. Hamdi Effendi and Miquerditz Sinapian Effendi have since been appointed second and third Inspectors under him.

As to the results of the inspection of the public accounts by these gentlemen nothing is known; nor is it known, nor is it at all probable that any discovery they may have made of irregularities or abuses, supposing such to have been made, will be allowed to transpire. When such Inspectors are in the pay of the Porte, it may be fairly assumed that nothing prejudicial to any Government establishment it may be their duty to inspect, even should it be reported to Constantinople, will be proclaimed to the world.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE DENNIS.

No. 212.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received June 8.)

(No. 551. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Lieutenant Chermside, respecting Baker Pasha's Report on the Diarbekir District.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 212.

Lieutenant Chermside to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 6. Confidential.)
Sir, *Sivas, May 14, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Baker Pasha has sent off his Report on the Diarbekir district; it is drawn up under similar headings to that on Aleppo, the contents of which are described in my despatch No. 2 of the 9th February.

1.—*Administration.*

The Report wishes to repeat and emphasize the views expressed in that on Aleppo, and to urge the expediency of decentralisation.

Additional points.—Mutessarifs, or "Muteshars," to be appointed for the head-quarter sandjaks of vilayets.

The remarks on this subject in my despatch No. 2, on Administration, heading 3, are a note written by me to illustrate a rather general clause of the Report. In the new Report there is a definite proposition on the subject, *i.e.*, an earnest recommendation to appoint such functionaries; things, it says, in the vilayets could not be in such terrible chaos if the Valis were able and obliged to travel.

Proposition.—Each Vali to make annually an obligatory tour of three months in his province.

Each Mutessarif a tour of two months, during which each caza must be visited.

Each Kaïmakam to visit, once in three months, each "Nah-hiyé" of his caza.

Each Mudir to visit, once in three months, each village of his "Nah-hiyé."

Reports in each case to be forwarded by these functionaries to their immediate superiors in the official hierarchy.

Note.—Without the obligatory appreciation by officials of their responsibility, alone obtainable by satisfactory deterrents from the traditional and universal malpractices, these inspections, while costing the Government a large additional annual sum, would probably merely prove a systematic repetition of the present circular tours of Governors, which, as a rule, only result in impoverishing the districts visited, and in rivetting more firmly the chains of oppression forged by and dependent on the local influence of the Notables.

2. The "Idaré Medjliss," or Administrative Council, that assists the local Governor, whether Vali, Mutessarif, or Kaïmakam, to be a Representative Assembly, only convened for a session of definite duration.

All judicial functions to be removed from the hands of this body.

Note.—There can, I think, be no doubt of the theoretical advantages of this measure, but in a country where the most rudimentary elements of upright administration have yet to be introduced, its effect would probably be hardly perceptible for a long time to come.

The universal official corruption is again clearly spoken of, and the urgency of forcible remedial measures advocated; its causes are enumerated—

1. Insufficient pay of employés. If the latter were better paid, and good public servants obtained, the gain to the revenue would exceed the increment to the public expenditure.

2. Punishment of dishonest and otherwise culpable officials. Culpable officials, the Report states, are not debarred from all further employment in the services of the Empire. The Commissioners state that, on the contrary, most numerous examples of the reverse abound. Honest functionaries, says the Report, mostly poor men, and consequently unsupported, are notoriously and manifestly neglected.

The result, it roundly states is, that "toute la morale" of the civil administrative service is destroyed, and that even the good and wise measures of the Government are never really put in force, and rest but an empty name.

Comment from me on these universally acknowledged points would be superfluous.

3. It is pointed out that the official class, recruited haphazard as it is from anything but the choicest sections of the Moslem population, comprises very many men of low training, questionable antecedents, and of most limited educational attainments.

The establishment of a Central College is recommended at the head-quarters of each vilayet. This is to be open for the admission of proficient pupils from the "Rushdieh" (or advanced schools) of which there is mention later on under the heading of "Public Instruction. At Constantinople there should be a Central College open to the senior graduates of the provincial schools, as well as to those of the existing educational establishments at the capital.

The certificated graduates of this Central College would have the monopoly of all employment in the Civil Service, *i.e.*, administrative, clerical, and fiscal Departments (comptabilité et rédaction), no dismissed employé to be eligible for further service. This being a radical measure, and one of the effects of which would not be perceptible for many years, some *ad interim* measures seem necessary.

The Report proposes that for the immediate future a system should be introduced of rigid inspection by the officials who should report directly to Constantinople,

and whose districts should in no case comprise less than a vilayet, more where practicable.

Note.—Were Baker Pasha not an Ottoman functionary, the frequent conversations I have had with him can leave no doubt as to his despondency as to success if such officials were not foreigners.

Note.—I hardly know whether any expression of opinion from me on this point may seem uncalled for, and advance it with all diffidence. Good chiefs alone can produce good subordinates, and I have seen this exemplified in this country over and over again, both with civil and military officers under the guidance and direction of foreign chiefs. I do not see how any theoretical institutions, however good, can give good results till the venal corrupt chiefs, the degrading mercenary traditions of the present system are swept away, and the practice as well as the precepts of Western progress is initiated by competent practical exponents of it. Native Inspectors would be one more increment to the ever-increasing army of officials, one more charge upon the impoverished Exchequer, their inspections only too likely to degenerate into but one more weapon of money-making and intrigue.

At the close of its remarks under this heading, the Report recapitulates the three points given above—

1. Augmentation of pay.
2. Punishment, disability, and advancement by merit.
3. Better choice of employés.

As regards administrative distribution of districts, the transferral of the Sandjak of Malatia, now directly dependent on Diarbekir to Kharput, is recommended, that of Arghana Maaden to Diarbekir, and of the Caza of Haji Bairam, or Shernaeli, across the Tigris, from Mardin Sandjak to Bitlis Vilayet.

The Government employés are stated to be recruited far too much from local residents, especially in the head-quarters of provincial Governments. The notoriously bad effect of local influence thus brought to bear on public affairs, so well known to all travellers or sojourners in the country, is pointed out.

2.—*Gendarmerie.*

The necessity for a reorganization of this force, says the Report, has been spoken of endless times, and a new Department has been instituted under the War Minister; as yet no executive measures have been initiated; it is impossible, it adds, to reiterate too often that there is no hope of general improvement till security be established. The shadowy nature of the Government authority and the general growth of brigandage, owing to no show of force, is set forth.

The gendarmerie, it asserts, ill-armed and equipped, and weak in numbers, is regarded with contempt by the numerous well-armed highwaymen.

A terrorism has been established such, that it is impossible to get witnesses to come forward, even when notorious evildoers are captured. Arbitrary imprisonment of such by the Government is, indeed, it points out, a way of dealing with the evil, but its consequences are very bad, and it amounts to a confession of weakness.

Security and military posts are far better guarantee for the future. A list of proposed military posts is appended, which is that of Skender Bey, already treated of in my despatch No. 5 of the 5th April. A "State," or Return, of the gendarmerie is also appended.

3.—*Police Force.*

This is favourably reported on, but the regulations applying to the force are not, it is asserted, satisfactory. The force is at present under the Alai Beys, or colonels of the gendarmerie force of the vilayets; and the zaptieh force, worse paid and equipped, is naturally jealous of it. It is recommended that, as in other countries, the police should be under the "Beladiya," or Municipal Council. These latter Corporations can afford to pay it, having, as they do as a rule, considerable cash balances, sums which are almost invariably badly administered. In towns of 2,000 inhabitants and upwards there should be two police for each 1,000 inhabitants. The force to be subject to the Minister of Police.

4.—*Public Works.*

The last Report (see No. 2 of the 9th February, &c.) pointed out how the Department for these might be re-established; it is one that is absolutely necessary.

Roads, and even railways, if their execution were possible, would form a base for real reforms, and enormously facilitate their introduction and maintenance.

The suffering and famine this year demonstrate the absolute necessity of communications. No progress has been made in the last six years; on the contrary, the roads constructed under Ismail Hakki Pasha have been abandoned and become ruins, as is the case with bridges and other works. This point is so important that it is receiving the special attention of the Commission. With the general Report will be forwarded a scheme for the development of communications, including the project of a railway from Scanderun, that is deemed possible even in the present impoverished state of the finances! Concessions of mines and others could alone, it is thought, enable this to be carried out. The Government is asked to defer action till it has received the project of the Commissioners.

5.—*Public Instruction.*

This leaves much to be desired. As at Aleppo, no control exists. In the cities there are "Rushdieh" schools, but in a lamentable state of decadence and disorganization. Proposed that in every village of fifty houses and upwards there be primary schools, and in every town of 400 houses and upwards Rushdieh schools. In the Rushdieh schools the course is not extended or practical enough, too much importance is given to the study of Persian and Arabic, and the supply of books and maps is bad. The American Mission schools are far the best inspected by the Commission.

The proposed Colleges, to be open to pupils from the Rushdieh and all good schools, have been already mentioned.

6.—*Cadastre and Census.*

Mentioned in Aleppo Report.

The state of things in the Diarbekir Vilayet only emphasizes the necessity of this. An attempt has been made to collect the necessary statistics, and after nine years the work is still unfinished. Where not carried out, the absence of it has in places absolutely ruined the country. In districts where it has not been introduced, the "verghi" is collected wholesale from villages, not from individuals, and the oppression and malpractices consequent on this result in deserted villages and an increasing nomad population, or villages ruined and dwindling, even where not deserted. The tendency of Government efforts at improvement should be to reduce the "verghi" ("Emlak and Temettu"), which weigh heaviest on settled populations, and to add to the contributions of the nomads. The existing tendency to augmentation of the nomad and diminution of the settled populations "exists to a degree that is alarming," its principal cause has been shown.

Note.—As I have already in my despatch No. 5 of the 5th April, &c., enlarged on these topics to your Excellency, further comment seems unnecessary.

In Diarbekir Vilayet the same confusion exists in the military registers as at Aleppo. Recruits, doubtless, says the Report, will always be found for the active army, but the chaotic state of the registers will, if not attended to, destroy the system of reserves elaborated at the expenditure of so much time and money. The redif battalions are now without arms or equipment for their complement, the small number of stands of arms that returned with the reduced battalions being the only store.

7.—*Refugees.*

Few in Diarbekir Vilayet. System of establishment bad.

8.—*Forests.*

Special attention has been given to these all along the route. Their state is lamentable and hardly any can be said to exist. All have been destroyed and nothing planted, the climate deteriorates, and the rainfall diminishes. The same causes, indeed, which have rendered the whole of the interior of Persia a desert are at work in Asia Minor and menace a grand calamity.

9.—*Tribunals.*

The new system has only come into effect a few months, but has been more easily adopted than might have been supposed.

It is very hard to find good "Procureurs."
The system is on the whole good.
Its application to the nomad population is difficult.
A movable Supreme Court is recommended to replace the Appeal Court and to be the head Tribunal for two or three vilayets.
Employés not to be judged in the Idaré Medjliss but in this Court.

10.—*Commerce and Agriculture.*

The same difficulties and deficiencies exist at Diarbekir as at Aleppo.

11.—*Beys and Aghas.*

This is a question that has been carefully studied. The position of these men is quite abnormal; they have too much power and it is a great difficulty for the Government, and causes much suffering to the populations. The reason is, that the Government power is not sufficiently established. Both Christian and Moslem accept the Beys and Aghas position for the protection it affords. Let the Government authority be once established, and that of the Beys and Aghas can be speedily upset or regulated; till then it is not to be done.

Remarks.

This Report does not need comment from me, and treats of matters of which your Excellency must be perfectly cognizant from the Reports of the Agents of Her Majesty's Government. The Porte must be perfectly aware of the state of the country, and the admirable practicable suggestions contained in the document, only after all bear upon points, action, and reform in the matter of which have been frequently urged on the Turkish authorities. Till some effort be made in the direction of the elementary reforms of cheap justice, freedom from oppression and security, the serious entertainment of more advanced measures must be perfectly futile.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 213.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 8.)

(No. 502.)
My Lord,
Constantinople, June 1, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at Broussa, Rhodes, Van, Erzeroum, and Siwas, on subjects of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 213.

Major Warlow to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 2.)
Sir,
Broussa, May 20, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Mr. William Perkins, a British subject, employed as mining engineer under Mr. W. J. Alt, Constantinople, reports having been attacked by a gang of eight or ten robbers, at about 8·30 P.M. on Monday, the 17th instant, while passing through the forest of Essen Tchamin Yighili Tchakil, near the village of Kizilchikour, about 55 miles south of Mount Olympus. His party, consisting of a zaptieh, two Turkish miners, a dragoman, a servant, and two men in charge of pack-horses, was fired upon at a turn in the road by several robbers (who laid hold of the leading pack-horses), but, being well armed, returned the fire, and after a skirmish of ten minutes or so succeeded in repulsing their assailants, who made off through the forest empty-handed. The shooting on both sides would seem to have been rather wild, as, although they were only 30 yards apart, none of the shots appear to have taken effect.

Mr. Perkins was informed that this gang had been infesting the neighbourhood for some time, and had committed many robberies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 213.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 18. Political. Confidential.)
Sir,
Van, May 5, 1880.

I DESIRE to call attention to the unsatisfactory condition of the Government of this vilayet. It may almost be said that there is no Government at all. To-day a man came to me complaining that his daughter had been abducted by a Kurd. He knew the man, and the place where the girl now is, a village 6 hours from Van, in the Caza of Van. He had complained to the Government, but had been told to go to Hakkiari, and given a letter to the Kaïmakam of Khoshab. I brought the case before the Reform Commissioners, who sent to the Procureur-General for an explanation. An answer was returned that the letter to the Kaïmakam of Khoshab would be withdrawn, and an officer sent at once to the village indicated by the complainant to search for the girl. The Commissioners remarked to me that the Vali ought to have done what they had done, and not allowed the complainant to be foisted off with a letter to an official who had nothing to do with the matter. They added, that such was always the way; the Vali did nothing, and all details came on to them.

Another curious circumstance occurred yesterday. Mr. Barnum, the American missionary, received a telegram from the Ottoman Bank, requesting him to act as their agent for disbursing money, collected in aid of those suffering from famine, by a Committee in Constantinople, under the presidency of the Sultan, and saying that the Vali would furnish him with a copy of the instructions drawn up for the employment of this money. Mr. Barnum, accordingly, went to the Vali, showed him the telegram, and asked for the instructions. The Vali professed entire ignorance of the matter. I informed the Commissioners to-day of what had occurred, and asked them if they knew anything about the affair. They expressed the utmost astonishment at the line taken by the Vali, as he had received instructions by telegraph ten days ago to form a Committee here to administer the funds, and had actually named the members.

I can only account for the condition of things by believing the Vali to be entirely under the influence of certain persons—Samih Pasha, the Temur Oghlou, Hajji Mustapha, and others, and not to dare to say or do anything without first consulting them. Hence he disclaimed all knowledge of the affair to Mr. Barnum till he could consult his mentors, and also, as these persons do everything they can to protect the Kurds, and always take part against the Christians in any question, justice and protection to the Christians are almost unattainable.

I hope Samih Pasha may not remain here much longer. His head-quarters should be at Erzinjian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 213.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 16. Political.)
Sir,
Erzeroum, May 21, 1880.

I REGRET to have to report to you a state of things in the eastern and southern portions of this vilayet, which should certainly not be permitted to continue, and which, therefore, calls for immediate attention on the part of some one capable of dealing with the question.

A combination of circumstances has produced this most distressing situation. Firstly, the presence in Alashgerd and Chynys of a large number of Kurdish and Circassian refugees; secondly, the famine which causes the hungry strong to pillage the weak who may still have left some means of subsistence, the weak being as usual the Christian population; and, thirdly, the incapacity, and, I may add, unwillingness of the authorities to restrain the lawless enterprises of these people.

In using the word "unwillingness," it hardly expresses what I believe to be the case, viz., that the Turkish Government would be only too glad if the Christians, driven to despair, were to execute the oft-repeated threat, and emigrate bodily into Russia. I cannot suggest any other reason for the line of conduct which is at present being pursued by the Turkish officials; for, in addition to apathy and indifference, there is an unmistakable under-current of satisfaction at the pitiable state to which the Christians are reduced, and by a refusal to listen to complaints or to punish offenders: silent encouragement and approval is given to the outrages which are increasing to an alarming extent as day by day the roads become more practicable.

From trustworthy information that I have received from Alashgerd, it would appear that notwithstanding the efforts which have been made by the Armenians, who, up to the present time, have spent about £ T. 700 in that district, a very severe famine has set in. Several deaths are occurring from exhaustion, while the mortality among the animals is enormous. Although only one-tenth of the usual amount of seed has been sown, yet, for want of money and means of transport, the inhabitants cannot obtain more from other districts, and the inability of the men to obtain sustenance for their families is causing some of them to emigrate, leaving their women and children to their fate.

The Kurds are ravaging the country, and it is impossible to go from one village to another except in large numbers and well armed.

From another source I learn that the inhabitants are forced to give up any goods they may possess. Complaints to the authorities meet with the answer, "Why don't you emigrate? the roads to Russia are open." Where these complaints have been persisted in, imprisonment is said to have been the result. In some cases the first suggestion has been acted on, and several families have crossed the border in the direction of Kayhysman. An additional element of distress has now shown itself in the collection of the sheep tax, made without any abatement consequent on the numbers which may have died since the preparation of the lists.

In Chynys the Christian population seem to be driven nearly to desperation both by distress and by the conduct of the Circassians, who have commenced to rob and pillage throughout the province. I have received through the American missionaries two pitiable appeals, imploring that the English Consul may be communicated with, and that some steps may be taken to alleviate their sorrows.

The injustice of the Kaïmakam, Iskander Bey, himself a Circassian and an official who should long ago have been removed, is set forth in these reports. It appears that a party of Circassians robbed the Government wheat stores at Shabbadine, the action going unpunished. Some Christians of the village of Yonikoï being tempted by hunger to act in a similar manner immediately received a visit from a band of soldiers, who beat the inhabitants, both men and women, with great severity. In fact, two women are said to be at death's door from premature confinement brought on by the chastisement. Several of the inhabitants were then taken (bound) to the village of Chevelmeh and imprisoned, being kept until the next day without food, when they were removed to Chynys.

I have already requested the Vali to use his authority with Iskander Bey to put a stop to the Circassian depredations. The reports from which I am now quoting having only come in to-day, I have not yet had an opportunity of investigating the matter.

In the Passin district only a few cases of robbery have occurred as yet. The people, who appear to have sown about one-fourth of the usual amount, are sustaining themselves on wild herbs. There is no loss of life from hunger, and the general health of the population is good. But even here, in what may be considered as the most flourishing of the famine districts, the mortality among the cattle has been so great that it is calculated one-half of the oxen and 70 per cent. of the sheep have died. It is considered, even with the best harvest that can be expected, that the amount of grain sown will not suffice for the requirements of next winter, while, should it be bad, or even indifferent, there will be considerable risk of the people dying from hunger. Believing that the state of things will be much worse next winter than at present, I have sown, from the small funds placed at my disposal by the English people and the American missionaries, some twenty somars of barley in this district. This amount, small as it is, will, with a fair yield and at the price I have paid for it, become equivalent to a subscription of over £ T. 1,000.

I am glad to be able to report to you that the people of this plain to whom I referred in my despatch No. 3, Consular, have at length received permission to obtain 400 somars of grain from Baibart, transporting for themselves. The poverty

in the city increases, and there has been lately a large influx of starving Kurds, who are receiving relief at our hands. The Vali tells me, and I believe it to be true, that he has made repeated demands to the Porte for money to transport wheat into Alashgerd and Bayazid, but up to the present time he has received no answer.

It is not to be expected that the Turkish Government can alleviate the distress or put an end to the disorders which are at present only in their infancy. Even if the Government were willing and sufficiently energetic to take the necessary measures, it would require a greater expenditure than it can sustain to feed the districts up to next harvest, and, giving money and transport to the refugees, force them on to more flourishing districts, where they might obtain an honest livelihood.

What steps can be taken to avert the coming evil is therefore a question for serious consideration. In a future despatch I purpose laying before you the sentiments of the most influential portion of the Armenians in this town, by which I think you will see that a time is approaching when something more than a mere representation of grievances will be necessary, if the English Government should consider it advisable to retain in their hands the future destiny of the Armenians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

No. 214.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 65.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 10, 1880.*

BY a telegram from Lieutenant Chermside dated the 16th instant, I learnt that in consequence of the Porte failing to supply Baker Pasha with funds for his travelling expenses, he was detained at Sivas and consequently unable to fulfil the mission entrusted to him by the Sultan. Sir H. Layard made strong representations to the Porte against this state of things, as reported in his despatch No. 535 of the 22nd instant, and I have to inform your Excellency that those representations are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 215.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 68.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 10, 1880.*

I HAVE received Sir Henry Layard's despatch No. 533, of the 22nd, inclosing a copy of a telegram addressed to the Armenian Patriarch by the Armenian Bishop Khorinian, in which he gives an account of the depredations committed by the Kurds, which are paralysing the efforts of the Relief Committees to give assistance to the starving population.

If Sir Henry Layard should have left Constantinople before he was able to carry out his intention to call the serious attention of Sawas Pasha to the state of affairs described by Bishop Khorinian, your Excellency should take an early opportunity of strongly remonstrating against the excesses of the Kurds being allowed to continue unpunished, and you should urge the Porte to give proper protection to the Armenian population.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 216.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(Received June 11.)

(No. 13. Political.)

Diarbekir, May 3, 1880.

My Lord,

SINCE my despatch No. 12, Political, of the 16th April, the state of the vilayet has somewhat improved. There has been a temporary cessation from acts of violence in the country districts. Large quantities of grain have arrived from Malatia, Kharpoot, and Sivas, and have been sent off to the suffering districts, principally to Sert, Mardin, and Mosul. To the latter place I estimate that 2,000 quarters of grain have been dispatched during the last fortnight. In spite of the drain from here prices have somewhat fallen, and inferior wheat was sold a few days ago as low as £T. 4½ the quarter. This, however, is still about ten times the average local price during the last few years. The fall in price is due, partly to the large importations from the West, and partly to the favourable prospects of the approaching harvest, both here and at Mosul.

Funds for relief purposes have also been flowing in. The Armenians have received a first instalment of £T.300 for the poor Armenians of Diarbekir, and £T.150 for Mardin. The Vali also two days ago received £T.400 from Constantinople, collected, I believe, by subscription amongst the Turks for the poor of Diarbekir.

I have also received considerable remittances through Her Majesty's Embassy and other sources.

The total amount received by me up to date for relief purposes is as follows:—

			£	s.	d.
February, March	..	Through Her Majesty's Embassy, from Lady Strangford's first remittances	200	0	0
"	..	Collected by Wm. Trotter, Esq., in London	150	0	0
April	..	Small sums paid to Messrs. Coutts and Co.	17	10	0
"	..	Lady Strangford (Turkish Compassionate Fund) through Her Majesty's Embassy, per Henson and Co. ..	100	0	0
"	..		300	0	0
"	..	Lady Strangford, per Ambassador and Ottoman Bank ..			
			767	10	0

		Fr.
Special for Jews—		
Alliance Israélite de Paris		500
Baron Hirsch, per Alliance Israélite de Paris		2,000
		2,500

The last remittances received have enabled me, within the last few days, to send 20 Turkish liras and 23 quarters of wheat to Mardin, Nisibin, and Midyadk for distribution by the American missionaries; and another lot of 20 quarters of grain to Sert, 2 quarters to Haine, and 2 to Deyrik. I have also made additional money contributions of 20 Turkish liras to the Armenians of Diarbekir and 10 Turkish liras to the Syrian Christians at Mardin. The greater part of the wheat sent to Mardin and Sert will be distributed gratuitously to the most needy, but a portion of it is to be sold at cost price in small quantities to poor families, and the proceeds, on being sent to me, will be available for fresh relief.

I have spent about 20*l.* in relief of Roumelian refugees and in aiding them to return to Smyrna, where, they assert, many of their comrades are doing well.

I am continuing the soup distribution twice a-week to the poor Arabs, Kurds, Syrians, and Chaldeans now in Diarbekir, and hope to be able to continue this method of relief up to harvest time, which will this year be unusually late, as the crops are very backward, owing to the lateness of the arrival of the spring weather. Last year, a month earlier than this, the weather was almost unbearably hot, but this year we have not had a single hot day up to date. I am also daily distributing bread to many of the hundreds of beggars who infest the streets. The price of second quality bread is now 2½ piastres the oke.

With my last despatch to the Foreign Office on the subject of the famine I appended, in original, a lengthy, detailed tabular statement, sent to me by the Reverend W. Andrews, of Mardin, describing the condition of the country between Bagdad and Mosul, recently visited by him. I have, since that gentleman returned to Mardin, been favoured with another statement, from which it appears, from inquiries made of the inhabitants at various points along his line of route between

Mosul and Mardin, that more than one-half the sheep, more than one-half the cattle, and more than four-fifths of the horses had perished during the past winter and spring. At Djezireh 500 persons were in a starving condition; from five to six deaths were daily occurring, and more than fifty persons had died up to date.* The price of bread at Djezireh and Nisibin (both in the Mardin Sandjak of this vilayet) was 6 piastres the oke. The inhabitants of most of the villages between Nisibin and Mardin were living on the wild thistle (*henshef*). Crops at Nisibin very promising, but between that place and Mardin, poor, owing to severe winds in winter, which tore up the roots.

I received telegrams from Captain Clayton at Van a few days ago, the substance of which I have already telegraphed home and to Constantinople:—

"*Van, April 22.*

"Famine in country very bad. Doubtful if present arrangements and means for relief will be sufficient."

Again:—

"*Van, April 26.*

"Mr. Barnum has returned from Bashkala. He gives a pitiable account of condition of people. In twenty-five villages he canvassed on my behalf 3,204 persons have nothing to eat but animals that have died a natural death. Nine hundred and fifty-six persons have from two days' to two months' supply, and some dozen families are not in want. This is only a small portion of distressed country. Also Kurds are beginning ravages, especially Ali Khan. Also Government is going to collect taxation even for sheep that have died or been pillaged. There is also danger of pestilence from number of carcases people are too weak or careless to get rid of. Deaths are beginning to come thick. I do not see that present measures can save people from wholesale destruction. Government measures against famine and Kurds inadequate. Commissioners have just told me Bitlis Vali again refuses to allow corn to leave his vilayet.

(Signed) "Captain CLAYTON."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 217.

Captain Cooper to Lord Tenterden.—(Received June 12.)

(Consular.)

Curragh Camp, County Kildare, June 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose some statistics dealing with the population, revenue, trade, market prices, wages, &c., of the Adana Vilayet.

At the same time, I beg to be allowed to take this opportunity of acknowledging publicly the aid I received on several occasions from my Dragoman, M. Gabriel Raad, and M. Kivork Frinkoglou, to whom I am indebted for the greater part of the information relating to market prices and wages in the accompanying Tables.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HARRY COOPER.

* April 30, approximately.

Inclosure 1 in No. 217.

APPROXIMATE Number of Houses and Male Population in the Adana Vilayet, 1880.

	Houses.		Males.
Moslem	..	57,638	163,990
Armenian	4,372		
Greek	985		
Roman Catholic	322		
Protestant	215		
Total Christian	..	5,894	16,890
Total	..	63,432	180,880

Adana, March 1880. H. C.

Inclosure 2 in No. 217.

BUDGET of the Adana Vilayet for the year 1296 (1880-81), taken from the Vilayet Almanack.

Tax.	Adana.	Hebel.	Kozan.	Djebel Bérékot.	Total.
	Frs. p.	Frs. p.	Frs. p.	Frs. p.	Frs. p.
Nevghi	2,349,707 00	1,084,855 00	736,291 00	616,100 18	4,786,953 18
Military exemption	153,635 00	19,179 06	218,425 23	86,150 39	477,381 28
Tithes	5,357,649 00	1,260,166 00	627,000 40	744,751 20	8,189,566 20
Sheep	1,120,910 00	1,415,626 00	376,750 00	327,549 00	3,240,835 00
Stamps	174,000 00	10,874 00	18,500 00	14,420 00	217,794 00
(?)	5,100 00	1,985 00	..	650 00	7,735 00
Land	15,100 00	..	..	..	15,100 00
Mines	..	..	680 00	..	680 00
Forests	270,700 00	205,490 00	850 00	40,000 00	517,040 00
Divers	299,550 00	112,176 00	16,232 20	14,000 00	441,958 20
Total	9,746,351 00	4,110,312 06	2,194,729 03	1,844,221 37	..
Total revenue					17,895,044 66
Expenditure—estimated local expenses					7,752,609 00
Balance					10,143,035 66

The balance, unless seized by "Havalés," is supposed to be sent to Constantinople.

Adana, March 1880. H. C.

Inclosure 3 in No. 217

Port of Mersina. Imports during year 1294 (1878-79).

Articles.	Baskets.	Casks or Barrels.	Cases.	Packets.	Number.	Sacks.	Okes (2·81lbs.).	Bales.
Coffee	..	..	..	..	..	1,978	..	..
Madder	..	..	..	..	..	31	..	..
Pepper	..	..	..	..	..	368	..	..
Sugar	..	..	..	1,512	..	..	..	..
Rice	..	..	..	..	..	3,810	..	..
Macaroni	..	..	103	..	..	..	..	..
Iron	..	..	..	11,382	..	..	..	..
Copper	..	..	..	58	..	..	..	..
Solder	..	27	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ammonia	..	15	..	..	..	..	..	..
Vitriol	..	239	..	..	..	..	..	121
Canvas	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sacks	..	..	..	4,349	..	..	..	..
Hair	..	..	..	118	..	..	..	..
Drugs	..	..	..	36	..	..	..	..
Clothes (Manchester) ..	..	..	..	9,528	..	..	..	..
Knick-knacks	..	..	..	1,867	..	..	..	..
Liqueurs	..	..	195	..	..	..	..	..
Steel (cutlery)	..	..	413	..	..	..	..	..
Alum	..	62	..	..	..	..	..	..
Petroleum	..	..	8,912	..	..	..	..	..
Boots	..	..	12	..	..	..	..	..
Clothes	..	..	376	..	..	..	..	..
Leather	..	..	88	..	..	..	..	1,400
Polished leathers ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tea	..	..	18	..	..	..	..	..
Bottles	..	..	..	271	..	..	..	..
Chairs	..	..	..	..	807	..	..	..
Wine	..	569	..	..	..	..	..	..
Brandy (Eau de vie) ..	..	814	..	..	..	..	..	..
Indigo	..	..	24	..	..	..	..	..
Olives	..	273	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alin oil	..	783	..	..	..	..	..	..
Shot	..	174	..	..	..	..	..	..
Rust	..	96	..	..	..	..	..	..
Alcohol	..	250	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tiles	..	..	..	..	17,000	..	..	..
Candles	..	..	52	..	..	..	..	..
Soap	..	..	..	..	..	3,375	..	..
Dates	1,012	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Timbak (Persian tobacco for Nayillieh)	..	..	..	911	..	..	..	..
Eatables	..	..	..	57	..	..	..	..
Tobacco	..	..	..	1,637	..	..	..	..
Tobacco in packets	..	..	326	..	..	..	..	..
Caviare	..	84	..	..	..	..	..	..
Cement	..	32	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paper	..	..	..	304	..	..	..	..
Lucifer matches	..	..	275	..	..	..	..	..
Blacking	..	..	132	..	..	..	..	..
Lemons	..	..	..	..	6 (shiploads)	..	..	..
Henna	..	..	..	..	..	1,003	..	..
Onions	..	..	..	..	..	4,153	..	..
Corn	..	..	..	..	..	29	..	..
Nuts	..	..	..	..	..	220	..	..
Cigarette papers	..	..	206	..	..	..	..	..
Small nails	..	826	..	..	..	..	..	..
Figs	3,013	..	..	..	..	316	..	..
Potatoes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oranges	..	..	576	..	18 (shiplo ds)	..	..	..
Earthenware pots	..	..	..	..	1,470	..	..	..
Marbles	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Apricots	..	..	56	..	..	56	33,500	..
Salt	..	..	..	1,514	..	..	..	..
Merchandise	..	..	..	..	..	106	..	..
Lentils	..	..	..	..	47 (shiploads)	..	..	..
Melons	..	..	..	354	..	..	..	..
Hemp	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	4,060	4,291	12,200	33,966	19,348	15,649	33,500	1,521

H. C.

Inclosure 4 in No. 217.

Port of Mersina. Exports during year 1294 (1878-79).

Articles.	Kilch of Constantinople.	Barrels.	Packets.	Sacks.	Number.	Okes.	Bales.
Raw cotton	..	..	..	..	..	..	13,104
Fine ,,	..	..	..	..	..	1,371,984	..
Corn	275,918	..	..	..	..	..	..
Barley	19,148	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sesame	..	..	..	..	..	1,794,732	..
Millet	26,072	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wool	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,968
Planks	..	..	..	..	143,384	..	..
Boards	..	..	..	..	..	187,780	..
Pine bark	..	..	..	..	..	205,700	..
Gum tragacanth	..	..	2,263	..	..	..	..
Yellow berries	..	..	3,869	..	..	..	..
Opium	..	..	155	..	..	..	..
Carpets	..	..	298	..	..	..	..
Hides (beef)	..	..	563	..	..	..	..
Eatables	..	..	589	..	..	..	..
Skins	..	..	993	..	..	..	..
Wax	..	..	331	..	..	..	..
Leather	..	..	209	..	..	..	..
Linseed	..	..	..	3,955	..	..	..
Nut (Apricot)	..	..	..	1,067	..	..	..
Pitch	..	..	..	1,698	..	..	..
"Satch" (liquid)	..	..	60	..	..	..	..
Leeches	..	79	..	..	..	..	..
Opium seed	..	..	..	163	..	..	..
Angora wool	..	..	339	..	..	..	..
Aniseed	..	..	636	..	..	..	..
Corn	..	..	..	252	..	..	..
Oil	..	..	200	..	..	..	..
Socks	..	..	13	..	..	..	939
Rugs	..	..	..	..	..	..	350
Hay	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Silk cocoons	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Raisins	..	..	..	844	..	..	..
Almonds	..	24	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	322,038	103	10,523	7,949	143,384	3,561,196	16,575

H. C.

Inclosure 5 in No. 217.

Port of Karatasch. Exports for the year 1294 (1878-79).

1. To the Ottoman Empire.

Corn	16,052	kilch of Constantinople.
Barley	16,034	,, ,,
Millet	553	,, ,,
Dölinjé (for adulterating corn)	182	,, ,,
Linseed	12	,, ,,
Melons	48,230	batmans.
Raw cotton	162	okes.
Cotton seed	72	,,
Fruit	1,150	,,
Pomegranates	1,000	,,
Furniture	2,114	,,
Fish	4,828	,,

2. For Abroad.

Sesame	163,641	kilch.
Corn	1,624	kilch of Constantinople.
Linseed	35	,, ,,
Raw cotton	93	kantars.
,, ,,	47	bales.
Skins	328	
Bones	500	kantars.

H. C.

N.B.—Tables Nos. 3, 4, and 5 are taken from the Vilayet Almanack, published at Adana, March 1880.
H. C.

Inclosure 6 in No. 217.

Wages in Adana, February 1880.

	Piastres.		
Bakers	30 to 50		per week.
Blacksmiths	3	7	per diem.
Brickmakers	15	20	,,
Butchers	200	230	per month.
Cabinet-makers	14	18	per diem.
Carpenters	10	14	,,
Clerks	3,000	10,000	per annum.
Coppersmiths	13	14	per diem.
Farm labourers	5	12	per diem and food, estimated at 3 to 4 prs.
,, ,,	300	400	per annum, in addition to board and lodging.
Farriers	3	7	per diem.
Harness-makers	7	10	,,
Masons	10	14	,,
Mechanics (engineers in mills)	£T. 4		per month.
Millers	7	9	per diem.
Operatives in cotton mills	3	4	,,
Potters	8	11	,,
Shoemakers	30	70	per week.
Shopmen	2	4	per diem.
Tanners	3	5	,,
Tinsmiths	8	10	,,

Currency.—123 piastres = £T. 1; 134 piastres = £1 sterling.

H. C.

Inclosure 7 in No. 217.

Wholesale Prices at Adana, February 1880.

	Piastres.		
Alcohol	6½		the oke.
Barley (white, of the interior)	14		the kilch of Constantinople (60 lbs.).
Cotton (raw)	9½ to 10		the oke.
,, seed	1½		,, (very dear this year).
Cochenille	80		,,
Coffee	14½ to 15		,,
Copper	17	18	,,
,,	26	28	,,
Dates	3	3½	,,
Figs	2	2½	,,
Hides (native)	8	10	each.
Iron (English)	2½		the oke.
,, (Swedish)	3½		,,
Lead	5½		,,
Leather (varnished)	500 to 800		the dozen hides.
,, (native)	21		the oke.
,, (foreign)	600 to 800		the dozen skins.
Manchester goods	6 to 7		the "mechler" (?)
N.B.—Coloured calicoes are sold by length; white clothes by weight.			
Millet	18	20	the kilch of Constantinople.
Nails	3½		the oke.
Oranges	14		per 100.
Pepper	8		the oke.
Petroleum	50 to 52		the can (American).
Rice	8½		the oke.
Salt	20 to 30 paras		,,
Sesame	50 to 55		the kilch of Constantinople (60 lbs.).
,,	5½	3¾	the oke (very dear this year).
Skins (sheep)	9	10	each.
,, (goat)	14	16	,,
Sugar	7		the oke.
Tobacco	34 to 50		,,
Wheat (of the province)	36		the kilch of Constantinople (60 lbs.).
,, (white, of the interior)	36		,, ,,
,, (hard, of the interior)	42		,, ,,
Wool	9 to 9½		the oke.
Wine (Cyprus)	2½	3½	,,

40 paras = 1 piastre. 134 piastres (currency) = £1 sterling.
1 oke = 2·832 lbs. 1 kilch of Constantinople = 60 lbs. = 1 bushel.

H. C.

Inclosure 8 in No. 217.

Market Prices at Adana, February 1880.

	Piastres.		
Barley	144		the Karaman kileh (180 lbs.).
Bread	2 to 3		the oke.
Butter	18		,,
Charcoal	2½	3	the batman (4 okes).
Coffee (raw)	16		the oke.
Eggs	1		for three.
Figs and dates	4		the oke.
Flour	2½	7	,, (according to quality and supply).
Fowls	3½	5	each.
Lemons	30 paras		,,
Meat (goat and mutton)	4		the oke.
Milk	4	5	,,
Oil (petroleum)	55		the can (American).
Onions	1		the oke.
Oranges	12	13	,,
Pepper	2	3	,,
Potatoes	0, 8, 16		,, (according to quality).
Raki	4		,,
Rice	10		the load (about 240 lbs.).
Saman (chopped straw)	3		batman (4 okes).
Salt	8	10	the oke.
Soap (native)	7½		,,
Sugar (white lump)	10		,,
Tobacco	4½	6	,,
Wine (Cyprus)	8	10	the load (about 280 lbs.).
Wood (bad)			

Exchange .. 40 paras = 1 piastre, 164 piastres (currency) = 1*l.* sterling.
Weight .. .. 1 oke = 2·832 lbs. avoirdupois English.

H. C.

Inclosure 9 in No. 217.

Weights and Measures.

Weight.

1 oke	= 2·832 English lbs.		= 1 okeh (Kaisarieh).
4 ,,	= 11·328 lbs.		= 1 batman of Adana.
4 ,,	= 11·328 lbs.		= 1 batman of Kaisarieh.
6 ,,	= 16·992 lbs.		= 1 kileh of Constantinople.
21·18 ,,	= 60 lbs. = 1 bushel		= 1 kileh of Karaman (Adana).
161·49 ,,	= 480 lbs. = 8 bushels		= 1 kantar de vent (Adana).
180 ,,	= 509·76 lbs.		= 1 kantar de transport (Adana).
200 ,,	= 566·4 lbs.		

Liquids are sold by weight.

Length.

1 archin ..	..	..	= 28 English inches.
3 ,, ..	..	..	= 7 ,, feet.
9 ,, ..	..	..	= 7 ,, yards.

Surface.

40 × 40 archin = 960·185 square yards = 800·55 square metres = 1 donoum.
5 donoums nearly equal 1 English acre.

N.B.—There is great laxity as to all weights and measurements. Standard weights are supposed to exist in some large centres, but they are rarely referred to.

H. C.

No. 218.

Colonel James Baker to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 14.*)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *Army and Navy Club, Pall Mall, June 14, 1880.*

A LETTER appeared in the "Times" this morning from Mr. Burgin, Private Secretary to my brother (Baker Pasha), which might perhaps have been better omitted, but having been published I beg leave to offer a few words of explanation.

When my brother was appointed by the Sultan to report upon the necessary reforms in Asia Minor he selected his own staff of Turkish officers, but the Sultan insisted on sending him one of his own Aides-de-camp, Suleiman Pasha, with the avowed object of assisting my brother.

The first visit of importance was to Aleppo, where Said Pasha, known as English Said, was the Vali, and he gave my brother every assistance.

Said Pasha is one of the few honest and energetic Turkish officials.

Along the whole course of the expedition the inhabitants—both Mussulmans and Christians—of the various towns flocked out to meet and welcome my brother as he approached; thinking, poor people, that as he was English he must come armed with authority from this country.

The enthusiastic manner in which he was everywhere welcomed is significant of the way in which English interference would be received by the Ottoman subjects.

According to Turkish custom, my brother has met with a most courteous reception from the various Turkish officials, but as he is not armed with any executive power, he feels that he is unable to effect any real good.

He writes that, large as his experience has been of the shortcomings of Turkish officials, the corruption and oppression he has lately witnessed surpass anything he could have believed possible. When he last wrote on the 13th May he himself and the members of his staff were in long arrears of pay and had no means of procuring the necessary funds for the progress of the expedition.

I know that his opinions on the state of Turkey agree with those I expressed in the memorandum I had the honour of submitting to your Lordship, and which are so ably reiterated in the letter to the "Times" this morning by Sir William Gregory.

The only remedy for reform may be summed up in one word, "coercion."

I have, &c.
(Signed) JAMES BAKER.

No. 219.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 15.*)

(No. 30. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, May 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21 of the 13th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. 41, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the removal of Khalil Bey el Assaad from his post as Governor of Tyre, and on his appointment as Kaimakam of Homs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure in No. 219.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 41.)
Sir, *Beyrout, May 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 28 of the 13th ultimo, reporting that the authorities were investigating the subject of the complaints against Khalil Bey el Assaad and Yussef el Memlouk, I have now the honour to inform your Excellency that Raif Effendi, the Governor of Beyrout, under whose jurisdiction the district of Tyre falls, has caused Khalil Bey el Assaad to be removed from the post of Kaimakam of that place. He has also requested the nephew of Memlouk, who holds the post of

Mudir of Tibnin, to resign his office, with the alternative of dismissal. As for El Memlouk himself, being a private individual no measures could be taken against him by the authorities, but the people of the district within which he resides have been given to understand that they are at liberty to prosecute him before the Medjlisses for any of his malpractices, and that, in doing so, they can object to any of his relatives sitting in judgment on him as members of the Medjliss.

The removal of El Assaad from the Governorship of Tyre, and the steps taken against the family of El Memlouk, may give satisfaction, in so far as the inhabitants of the district of Tyre are concerned, as they will be relieved from the tyranny of these individuals. But, on the other hand, I regret to report to your Excellency that his Highness Midhat Pasha has thought fit to appoint Khalil Bey el Assaad to be Kaïmakam of Homs, a post of more importance than that which he held at Tyre, and which, consequently, will be considered as a promotion. The notorious character of El Assaad, his malpractices and oppressive acts, have already been fully reported to your Excellency by Mr. Consul-General Eldridge in former despatches; and his Highness Midhat Pasha is well acquainted with the reputation of this person, since your Excellency has been informed in Mr. Eldridge's despatch No. 21 of the 11th March last of the strong representations that have been made to his Highness in regard to him, and of the numerous complaints that his Highness himself has received against him. The appointment, therefore, of El Assaad to the Governorship of Homs would indicate, to say the least, a want of sincerity in rectifying existing abuses, and instituting the reforms so needful to the proper government of the country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 220.

Vice-Consul Jago to Earl Granville.—(Received June .)

(No. 6. Political.)
Damascus, May 31, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte, reporting Midhat Pasha's resignation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 220.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 8.)
Damascus, May 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to report to your Excellency to-day by telegraph that his Highness Midhat Pasha had this day telegraphed his resignation to the Sultan.

His Highness' message referred, I believe, to his former resignation, and based his present action upon many reasons, not detailed, but which render his present position untenable. These latter are, I believe, shortly, the independence of the military authorities; the independence of the judiciary; the recent Edicts cutting down still more salaries of subordinate civil employés and the police; the constant demands for money from Constantinople; the recent regulations respecting tithes, imposts, and taxes, which impoverish the local Treasury without benefiting the country, and which render still more difficult the finding the necessary pecuniary means of carrying on the Government even on the present meagre scale. And his Highness takes advantage of the present state of order and tranquillity which reigns in Syria to request the Sultan to relieve him him from what has become an untenable position without delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS S. JAGO.

No. 221.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 15.)

(No. 20.)
Therapia, June 7, 1880.

My Lord,

MGR. NERCÈS, the Armenian Patriarch, called upon me to-day. I had not time to have much conversation with his Beatitude, but I am to see him again shortly.

Meanwhile, I inclose the copy of a document which his Beatitude placed in my hands, and which your Lordship will read with interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Memorandum of Reforms desired by the Armenians.

LES Arméniens ne visent point à une existence politique; ils demandent des libertés civiles, des institutions qui garantissent leur sécurité, leurs biens, et leur honneur: leur droit à la vie, enfin. On ne doit pas oublier que toute réforme serait vaine si les fonctionnaires appelés à la réaliser ne sont pas convenablement choisis. La condition essentielle de tout succès pour les institutions qu'on créerait réside dans la nomination d'un Gouverneur-Général pris en dehors de la classe privilégiée qui, en raison de ses traditions religieuses et administratives, a toujours été hostile à l'esprit moderne. En un mot, il faudrait choisir le Gouverneur-Général parmi les Chrétiens, et puisqu'il s'agit de l'Arménie, ce choix devra tomber naturellement sur un Arménien.

Mais cette condition serait illusoire dans l'application si le Gouverneur était placé chaque jour sous le coup d'une destitution inattendue. Il faut donc que le Gouverneur soit assuré de conserver ses fonctions pendant une période de six à sept ans, et choisi dans les mêmes conditions que pour le Liban. Le Gouverneur-Général devra également être investi de l'autorité nécessaire pour la réalisation des réformes sous sa responsabilité. Quelles seraient les réformes?

1. *Assurer la Sécurité Matérielle.*—Jusqu'ici rien n'était plus facile pour les Commandants des troupes que de réprimer les tribus sauvages, pourtant rien n'a été fait. Sont-ce les moyens ou la volonté qui ont fait défaut? Toujours est-il que pour mettre la sécurité à l'abri de tout danger, il sera plus sage et même tout naturel de confier aux populations elles-mêmes le soin de se protéger. De là la nécessité d'une gendarmerie recrutée indistinctement de Musulmans et de Chrétiens, mais pris dans la province suivant un système facile à déterminer. Cette gendarmerie serait placée sous les ordres du Gouverneur-Général et commandée par un officier Européen.

Les Commandants de troupes en garnison dans la province doivent obéir au Gouverneur pour toutes les mesures de sécurité publique et aider la gendarmerie.

2. *Assurer la Justice.*—On n'y arrivera qu'en la sécularisant. C'est-à-dire en promulguant un Code Civil et un Code Criminel, élaborés conformément aux principes modernes de la justice; en décrétant d'autre part que les Tribunaux du Chérî ne se chargent que des contestations entre Musulmans; enfin, en réformant la composition des Tribunaux appelés à appliquer la justice aux Chrétiens, ou dans les questions mixtes, et surtout d'abus de pouvoir. Cette organisation ne peut être entourée de trop de garanties: c'est le régulateur de toute Administration.

Dans cette organisation il serait indispensable de laisser au Gouverneur-Général la faculté d'appeler à son aide l'élément étranger au moins pour la formation d'une Cour Suprême.

3. L'assiette de l'impôt foncier sera chargée. La dîme et le mode de perception seront abolis. L'impôt sera prélevé sur l'étendue et la qualité de la terre.

4. La province aura la droit de s'imposer et de se créer des ressources pour les services spéciaux de la province: tels que les services de la gendarmerie, de la justice, des écoles de toutes les communautés, des établissements sacrés de toutes religions des travaux publics, et autres.

Le mode à suivre par la province pour prélever ces ressources destinées au service de sa propre Administration sera à peu près identique à ce qui est admis pour la Province de Roumélie Orientale, à cela près que le Conseil Général appelé à voter et

à répartir l'impôt nécessaire aux différents services n'aura que cette seule et unique attribution.

Pour ce qui est des impôts généraux du Trésor Impérial la province ne revendique aucun privilége. Elle les acquittera comme de règle, sauf la part à faire sur le revenu pour les besoins locaux.

No. 222.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 13. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, May 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, under the circumstances mentioned in my despatch No. 12 of the 20th instant, Sirri Pasha has taken upon himself to suspend from his functions the Kaïmakam of Kerassond until the sanction of the Porte is obtained for his removal or dismissal, according to the result of the inquiry which is to be made on his conduct. The removal of this official, by dissipating a strong spirit of opposition which influential members of the community of Kerassond entertained against him, will help in abating the prevailing excitement.

Sirri Pasha has also adopted other measures in concert with the Greek Archbishop, whose efficient co-operation has so far restored confidence amongst Christians in the district of Kerassond that the emigration has been checked for the present.

The Commissioners sent by Sirri Pasha to Ordoo report that they have obtained similar results in that district, and that the populations there are now comparatively quiet.

Late reports addressed to myself state that the great excitement which prevailed only a short time since has subsided in part, and that recently no other emigrants have departed for Russia.

However, the Governor-General informed me yesterday that, as two or three vessels under the Russian flag are lurking about this coast, he apprehends that, as in a short time the Government officials, as well as the inhabitants of the seashore, are compelled by malaria to remove to high plateaux inland, those among the Christians who are willing to emigrate will remain behind and embark without it being in the power of the local authorities to prevent the exodus.

It would appear that the Porte has decided that the immigration of the Lazes from the territory ceded to Russia is not to take place, at all events this year, and that this decision, though not officially published, is sufficiently known to have checked the Christian emigration from this quarter.

But, whether the emigration takes place or not, there seem to be other motives of dissatisfaction than the presence of Laz immigrants, and which should not be disregarded.

Without accepting to the letter the reports which, from time to time, I have received from different parties, and communicated to your Lordship, I have no doubt that, due allowance being made for exaggeration, there is still sufficient ground for complaint.

But the authorities at Trebizond do not seem to feel justified to act on the rumours of a vague character which come to their knowledge, and the populations, for the motives so often adduced in my late correspondence on the subject, will not accuse their oppressors.

Under these circumstances, the Public Prosecutor alone (there being one attached to the reformed Courts of Justice) could take in hand the cases in the districts of Kerassond and Ordoo, but to do so he must give up all the other affairs in the vilayet, and even if he did I am convinced that his presence would be far from sufficient to inspire to the populations more confidence in the existing Courts of Justice.

These motives had induced me to suggest, in my last despatch, that especially-qualified functionaries should be selected to ascertain the extent of the existing evil, without the assistance of the local Medjlisses.

Besides, the ill-feeling which now prevails between the Administrative and the Judicial authorities in this province (and of which I shall speak in another despatch) is such that an inquiry made under the circumstances in which they are placed towards each other, and which preclude the possibility of cordial co-operation, would not lead to any satisfactory result.

With regard to the sudden movement of emigration to Russia of the Christian population of this vilayet, it is remarkable that it coincides with the date of the formation in the Caucasus of a Commission to consider the best means of checking the emigration *en masse* of the inhabitants of the Batoum and Ardahan districts.

The Russian Acting Consul at Trebizond has again this week paid a flying visit to Samsoon and Kerassond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 223.

Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(Received June 16.)

(No. 14. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, May 29, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the reforms introduced a few months since in the judicial branch of the service have not been attended with that success which was expected by those who promoted the measure, if, indeed, they ever entertained themselves serious hopes of arriving at satisfactory results.

In my opinion the condition of this province, far from having improved in the slightest degree under the new régime, has, on the contrary, become worse; and as it is not likely that a change for the better may take place under the present circumstances, I feel in duty bound to call attention to the subject.

The failure of the intended judicial reforms is to be assigned to two main causes:—

1. The incompatibility of laws framed on the European system, with the character, habits, and present condition in Turkey.

2. The want of experienced officials to apply reformed Legislature in its true spirit.

Having spoken at some length, even before an attempt at judicial reform was made in Turkey, of the two before-mentioned points in a separate Report dated Carlsbad, the 12th August last, I shall limit myself to offer a few additional observations suggested to me by the result hitherto obtained by the experiment carried on.

The populations in Anatolia are not in a sufficiently advanced state of intellectual development to understand the beneficial purpose of laws framed in a more liberal spirit than the existing ones. The only thing that they realize in the new legal procedure is, that culprits cannot be apprehended before being warned, that is, summoned to appear in Court, and warrants for apprehension are issued against them. The law, which they were hitherto accustomed to fear but not to respect has, therefore, lost the only power it possessed in their eyes, that of the dread it inspired.

In fact, experience had hitherto taught the populations to look on the Medjlisses not as Courts wherein justice was distributed, but as public offices in which the most innocent parties had to undergo an amount of vexation and hardship that made them shrink from appearing before them.

Accused parties had, therefore, to be brought to trial, if I may say so, by surprise, and by compulsory means. A sudden reform in the procedure could not modify as suddenly the character and habits of the populations, and induce them to place confidence in Medjlisses which sad experience had taught them to mistrust.

This change may take place, but after a long, indeed a very long period, and only when they may be convinced by fresh experience that the reformed Courts of Justice deal with more equity than the former Medjlisses, but hitherto nothing has taken place to give beginning to confidence.

In the meantime, the construction put by the public on the new procedure is, that it is all to the detriment of honest people, who consequently lament, and to the advantage of malefactors, who seem to think that it has been framed for their special benefit, and readily avail themselves of the latitude it offers.

The latter take good care when they are served with a summons to keep out of the reach of the police for a certain time, and are little affected by the warrant for apprehension which is subsequently issued against them, they having every chance to elude its enforcement. The consequence is, that disorders and crimes increase from day to day, and that public confidence declines in proportion.

House-breaking, which formerly was rare, is now of daily occurrence, and murderous

assaults in public thoroughfares are much more frequent than before; and whether it be the fault of the police, or of the Judicial Courts, the fact is that the thieves are rarely, if ever, discovered, and that the would-be assassins are seldom apprehended, and that the consequent impunity encourages crime.

With the exception of the Public Prosecutor, who since a few months also acts as Judicial Inspector, and of the President of the Court of Appeal, who have been sent from Constantinople, all the other members of the Courts of Justice are the same, or no better qualified individuals than those who sat in the former Medjlisses. I must here state in memory of the late Cadi, Ahmed Hamdilfeur, who has not yet been replaced, that he was an exceptionally honourable and conscientious functionary, whose death, a month ago, caused universal regret.

Under the forementioned circumstances, supposing even that the two officials in question be endowed with all desirable qualifications, it is not possible that their presence at Trebizond, or that the most strenuous efforts of the Judicial Inspector in other parts of the vilayet, should be conducive to the proper execution of laws, with which are unacquainted the very persons who are intrusted with the task of carrying them out.

I have no doubt that most of the members of the Courts of Justice in the outlying districts, if they can read, of which I am not at all certain, at all events cannot understand the true spirit of the new Legislature, which, like most regulations in Turkey, is probably irreproachable.

The great lack was not in the laws themselves, but in their application. The reformed procedure may be a very valuable addition to the existing Codes in Turkey, but practically it has not filled up the gap, and, on the contrary, had added to the perplexities of the already complicated situation.

At present the administrative and judicial authorities do not seem to know where to begin and end their respective attributions, or, if they do, one of the parties, at least, courts conflicts with the other party. The police, on their side, do not appear to have a clear notion of their present duties. Besides, there is now in the high judicial Courts at Trebizond an exaggerated idea of individual liberty as connected with persons who are liable to prosecution, and this mutation from one extreme to the other does not tend to secure public tranquillity.

The idea that a culprit—nay, a criminal—can in no case be apprehended without first being summoned to appear in Court is not limited to the public. About two months since one of the most knowing members of the Criminal Court of Appeal went so far as to affirm to me that, even in the case of a murderous assault, the police, though in duty bound to prevent the deed if possible, had not the right to apprehend the would-be assassin, and in support of his assertion he was citing a case which had taken place shortly before.

The Public Prosecutor holds a different view. However, lately, a Mussulman having absconded after inflicting three dangerous wounds on one of his co-religionists, the Court did not feel justified to issue a warrant in the first instance for his apprehension. He simply was summoned to appear in Court, which, I am told, he did on the second summons, and was admitted to bail. It may be, however, that the fact of the culprit in this instance being the son of a Bey has had some influence on the leniency with which he was treated, for a Mussulman peasant who is suspected to have shot, though without effect, at another Mussulman, is under confinement.

The public complain as much as formerly of dilatoriness and of bribery in the reformed Courts, and seem, on the whole, to be less satisfied under the new régime than they were under the old one. The Judicial Inspector, though admitting that bribery is still rife, assures me, however, that the new Courts have disposed of many long-standing cases. Your Lordship has, perhaps, observed that one of the motives adduced by the Greeks in the district of Kerassond for having decided to emigrate to Russia (paragraph 7 in despatch No. 9 of the 12th instant) is the impossibility in which they consider themselves to be to continue to live in Turkey under the régime lately inaugurated by the Porte.

The great aim of the heads of the judicial Courts seems to be to lay down, as a matter of fact, that they are entirely independent, and that henceforth the Governor-General has no control over them. This has led to a regrettable estrangement between them and Sirri Pasha, of which I shall speak hereafter.

An example will suffice to show the length to which they go to assert their independent character. A few Mussulmans being in prison since upwards of a year on a charge of robbery committed to the detriment of a Greek subject, my colleague of Greece has considered it his duty to address a note to the Pasha, begging that the

individuals in question should be tried without delay, as he was reluctant that individuals apprehended in consequence of an action brought by a Greek subject should, like so many other accused parties, be detained in custody without trial for an undetermined period. The Vali transmitted this note to the Judicial Inspector, and the President of the Court of Appeal, to whom it was communicated by him, ended a long justificative answer by begging to call to mind that the judicial Courts were independent. In conversation, the Judicial Inspector explained to me that the last remark was elicited by the fact that the Greek Consul had made mention in his note of other cases than the one concerning his subject.

The question ended there, for at present the action of the Pashas in cases of this description is limited to the transmission of notes. The Valis seem to have been deprived of the power to watch over the proceedings of the judicial Courts, and to insist on their acting in conformity with the law, should it be transgressed by them. This power of supervision, without giving them authority to interfere in the finding of the Courts, might have prevented irregularities, and would, at all events, have kept up the indispensable prestige which a Pasha must exercise over populations accustomed to respect only absolute power.

In the present unsettled state of things in Turkey, the authority of the Valis should have been enlarged in order to enable them to act under their own responsibility in cases of emergency. I have already had occasion to point out that untailing the prerogatives of the Pashas in the provinces would not prevent those amongst them who commit other irregularities to overstep the limits assigned to them, while it would present an insuperable barrier to such of them as abide by the orders of the Porte. The measure can, therefore, only prevent the little good that might be done in certain cases, without checking the great irregularities that take place.

I make this remark in a broad sense, and not as exclusively bearing on the subject treated in this despatch, though it especially stands good in the case in question.

In fact, the only real check over the populations in Turkey was the awe in which they stood of the Vali's power, which, in their eyes, represented the supreme authority of the Sultan.

This salutary awe, which alone was sufficient to prevent many disorders, has, all at once, been nullified by transferring part of the rights of the Governors-General into the hands of the judicial authorities, who, for the populations, are nobodies, and who, while not inspiring fear, do not either command confidence. The existing power has been broken up, without another having been substituted for it.

And the situation is still more aggravated, by the fact that there is an open feud between the Pasha and the judicial authorities at Trebizond, and that, as already reported in despatch No. 5 of the 2nd March last, Sirri Pasha has been strongly reprimanded by the Porte, on most futile motives, for interfering with the reformed Courts of Justice.

He seems to have had reason to believe that the Public Prosecutor and the President of the Court of Appeal were not strangers to the groundless charge brought against him, and ever since there has been a great enmity between them.

After this admonition, Sirri Pasha has endeavoured to avoid, more than before, all contact with matters connected with the judicial branch of the service. However, he is responsible for the tranquillity of the province, and if he happens to consider his duty to have arrested individuals who are troubling, or suspected of troubling, the public peace, in order to have them tried by the Judicial Courts, he is rebuked by the judicial authorities, who contend that he is encroaching on their prerogatives.

In some cases the latter may be within the limits of strict legality, but the unremitting aim they have at heart to assert their uncontrollable authority often seems to engross their attention more than public business.

Owing to his powers having been limited, his authority being set at defiance by the very Government officials whenever an opportunity offers for so doing, and his least move being keenly watched in order to find him at fault, or to create complications, Sirri Pasha finds himself in the impossibility to do any good. These, and the other motives mentioned in my despatch No. 12 of the 20th instant, sufficiently account for his unusual want of energy in the circumstances reported in my forementioned despatch.

While Sirri Pasha laments of the conduct towards him of the Public Prosecutor and of the President of the Court of Appeal, the latter, on their side, complain, amongst other things, that the Under-Governors in the provincial districts do not give them information with regard to the summonses forwarded to them for service on accused

parties, and that, as the Governor-General does not adopt measures to remedy this neglect on the part of his subordinates, the ends of justice are thereby thwarted.

The heads of the judicial Courts accuse the police of not executing their duties, while the latter state that all the individuals they arrest are set at liberty. The Colonel of Police related to me a strange case. One of his subordinate officers, having had to interfere in a night brawl, mentioned in his report of the occurrence that the parties who were disturbing the public peace had assaulted the force under his command. The case was considered by the judicial authorities to be a charge for assault of a private character, though the police were in the execution of their duties, and the usual fee of 10 piastres (1*s.* 9*d.*) was exacted from the officer. The police, though very inefficient at all times, knew at least formerly that they could apprehend an individual troubling the public peace, while they now seem to be at a loss to understand what are their duties.

This is not all; the Government officials and a number of private individuals having sided either with the Governor-General or the judicial authorities, there are now here two strong hostile parties using their best endeavours to damnify each other.

I have done my best to give a description, as impartial and accurate as possible, of the working of the reformed Courts of Justice at Trebizond, which is far from satisfactory. And, however, Sirri Pasha is an energetic and well-disposed functionary, in fact one of the best Valis; the Colonel of Police is honest and willing to execute his duties to the best of his ability; and the Public Prosecutor, whom I know less than the two other functionaries, is very active, and seems to be much above the average of Turkish judicial officials. I cannot say much of the President of the Court of Appeal, whom I have met only once by mere chance.

In conclusion, I can only repeat that, in my humble opinion, and I believe, as the facts related sufficiently bear out, the lately-introduced reformed laws are incompatible with the present condition in Turkey; that even if they were their application is defective, and cannot be improved before a sufficient staff of competent judicial officials are educated; that the difficulties inherent to all innovations are increased by the enmity which has sprung up between the Governor-General and the Colonel of Police on one side and the Public Prosecutor and the President of the Court of Appeal on the other side; and that I really believe that if the present experiment of reformed Courts is to be continued for any length of time, it would be in the interest of the Porte, and especially of the populations in this province, that the services of either the one or the other party should be taken advantage of in another vilayet.

The most important, if not the whole, of the facts contained in this despatch being known to the Porte, it is difficult to understand, unless indeed the situation is identical in all the provinces of the Empire, why no measures whatever are adopted to remedy the existing state of things at Trebizond.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 224.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Earl Granville.—(Received June 17.)

(No. 31. Political.)
Beyrout, May 31, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch No. 42 which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the general state of affairs in the Vilayet of Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure in No. 224.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 42.)
Beyrout, May 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that his Highness Midhat Pasha left Damascus on the 4th instant, for the purpose of visiting Kuneitra, Tiberias, and Acre, and on the 18th instant he arrived at Beyrout, by the Austrian Lloyd's steamer from Caiffa. His Highness left again for Damascus on the 24th instant.

Whilst his Highness was in Beyrout I took the opportunity of calling upon him, and during my interview with him he touched, in the course of his conversation, upon the general state of affairs in Syria. His views on the present state of things were very unfavourable, and he complained much that he had not full power, so as to enable him to carry on the Government of the country efficiently. He stated that the want of control over the military, the entire independence of the Tribunals, and the placing of the police force to a certain extent under the direction of the Ministry of War, left him little authority for the proper administration of his province. This, I believe, is a complaint that his Highness has for some time past been in the habit of making, but to what extent this want of power tends to hinder him in discharging those duties which he is able to perform it is difficult to judge. His Highness alluded to the success of his endeavours in the making of roads, and to the favourable manner in which the tramway at Tripoli has been working. From the accounts that reach me in regard to these undertakings he has reason to congratulate himself, for they appear to have turned out well. He has recently begun a road from Sidon to Nabatié, which gives every prospect of becoming a useful undertaking, and he has ordered it to be continued on to Damascus.

As regards the administration of the country in general, I regret to inform your Excellency that no improvement is visible. I am, however, happy to state that, with the exception of the recent affair at Homs, reported in my despatch No. 36 of the 17th instant, tranquillity continues to prevail. Your Excellency has already been made aware of the unsatisfactory state of things that, for some time past, has existed in the district of Tyre, by the proceedings of such men as El Assaad and El Memlouk. Your Excellency has also been informed, by the reports of Mr. Consul-General Eldridge and myself, of the disgraceful transactions in regard to the reduction of the land tax in the Baalbec region, in which a British subject was unwillingly one of the sufferers; and Mr. Jago has ably made your Excellency acquainted with state of affairs at Damascus, and in its neighbourhood, by his recent reports. From the unfavourable nature of these accounts it will appear that the condition of things, as regards the administration of the vilayet, is not progressive, but shows indications of the reverse. The working of the Law Courts, under the new Regulation making them independent, is worse than it has ever been before, and complaints of injustice and corruption are rife. Even at Beyrout—which is held up as a model to the other towns in Syria for its civilization and enlightenment—bribery in the Tribunals is of common occurrence. I am told, on good authority, that in the Court of First Instance the members can be bribed for a paltry amount, and that at present it is the common practice for two of the members and the Advocate of one of the litigants to arrange amongst themselves for the division of a sum of money paid to obtain a favourable decision.

The measures adopted for the collection of the tithes, which formerly were so oppressive to the peasants, have now resulted, by the abolition of tithe farming, in great losses accruing to the Treasury, and the relief resulting to the peasant is not so great as may be supposed. To give an example, I have been informed on very good authority that the villages in the Plain of the Bekaa will this year be distributed amongst nineteen Government officials as collectors of the tithes. One of these, whose salary will amount to 400 piastres a-month, and who will be employed for three months, offered, before obtaining his appointment, a bribe of 1,300 piastres to a friend if he would intercede for him and procure him his post as collector. The bribe that he had thus to pay away amounted to more than his salary for the whole of the three months that he would be employed. Your Excellency will infer, from such an instance, the gain likely to accrue to the Treasury, and the probable benefit to be derived by the peasant.

By a recent order of his Highness the Governor-General, the convicts who have hitherto been kept at Acre have been removed to a prison prepared for them at Tripoli. From the accounts that reach me from that place, I understand that their condition is deplorable. Their number amounts to from 500 to 600; they subsist on the most miserable fare; and are entirely deprived of medical assistance, the sick amongst them being left to nature. In the southern districts, which are generally very unsettled, things for the present appear to be quiet. With the exception of the shooting of a Druze in the Merj Ayoun by a zaptieh, in a personal quarrel, and the murder of a Metouali at Sidon, nothing has occurred to excite attention.

An incursion of the Bedouins is reported into the districts bordering on the Syrian Desert, and I am told that a large number of them are armed with the Peabody Martini rifle.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 225.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 85.)

Foreign Office, June 17, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to request that you will convey to Captain Clayton my approval of his having brought under the notice of the Imperial Commissioners the letter which he received from Mar Shimoun, of which a copy is inclosed in his despatch to Major Trotter, No. 13 of the 20th April, and of his having called their particular attention to the unfitness of Hassan Bey, the Kaimakam of Julamerik, for the position he occupies.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 226.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 86.)

Foreign Office, June 17, 1880.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will find, in the despatches from Her Majesty's Consul at Trebizond, marked Nos. 7, 8, 11, and 12, Political, of which he has furnished copies to your Embassy, accounts of the emigration which is taking place from that vilayet owing to the oppression the people are suffering at the hands of the officials, and the state of disorganization into which the province has been allowed to fall.

I have to request that your Excellency will call the attention of the Porte to the serious injury resulting from this state of misgovernment. The people are thereby driven to emigrate from a country which is already too sparsely populated.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 227.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 90.)

Foreign Office, June 17, 1880.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith printed copies of the reports drawn up by Lieutenant Chermside, R.E., on his recent journey through Asia Minor, which were forwarded to me in Sir H. Layard's despatch No. 520 of the 17th ultimo, and I have to request that your Excellency will convey to that officer my best thanks for these very able papers. I have communicated them to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for War, and have begged that the testimony which Sir H. Layard bears to the zeal, activity, and intelligence displayed by Lieutenant Chermside may be brought to the notice of His Royal Highness the Commander-in-chief.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 228.

Memorandum communicated by Odian Effendi to Sir C. Dilke, June 21, 1880.

LE Rapport que Sir Austin Layard a adressé à son Gouvernement sur l'état de la Turquie contient, à côté de plusieurs vérités, quelques erreurs pour ce qui concerne les Arméniens. Ces erreurs sont de nature à nuire à la cause Arménienne.

Il donne d'abord à entendre que c'est à la suite du dernier changement Ministériel en Angleterre, et encouragés par la croyance d'être appuyés par le nouveau Cabinet que les Arméniens ont conçu l'idée d'une Arménie autonome, semi-indépendante.

Les Arméniens demandent aujourd'hui moins qu'ils n'ont demandé au Congrès de Berlin, moins encore qu'ils n'ont demandé l'année passée par une note officielle remise par

le Patriarche aux Représentants des Puissances à Constantinople, moins enfin que ce qu'ils ont demandé invariablement et tous les jours depuis deux ans et demi. Ils ont demandé l'autonomie à la Sublime Porte elle-même. Mr. Layard insinue que ce sont quelques Arméniens influents à Constantinople et en Europe, une partie de la presse, et quelques Comités qui la demandent. La première demande d'autonomie a été signée par douze Archevêques, agissant au nom de douze diocèses. L'année passée la population Arménienne de la Province d'Erzéroum, représentée par une Commission *ad hoc*, présentait la demande des Arméniens aux Commissaires Turcs. Ce Rapport se trouve tout au long dans le "Blue Book." La population de Van a fait la même chose. Pourquoi d'une manière si générale et invariablement les Arméniens demandaient une Administration Arménienne fortement organisée ou l'autonomie, si on veut l'appeler ainsi? Parce qu'ils étaient convaincus que toute autre mesure et réforme seraient vaines. Depuis trente ans toutes sortes de réformes ont été décrétées en Turquie. Une grande réforme a été même mise à exécution. Une Administration, avec la coopération des populations locales, a été donné aux provinces. Des Assemblées Générales, des Conseils d'Administration devant assister le Valy, des Tribunaux Criminels et Civils, ont été composés de Musulmans et de Chrétiens, et nommés par le suffrage universel, avec une foule d'autres dispositions libérales dont l'ensemble forme la loi des vilayets. Seulement les fonctionnaires sont restés Musulmans. Le sort des Chrétiens n'a pas été amélioré, loin de là. On ne fera pas aujourd'hui une meilleure chose que la loi des vilayets. Mais on imaginera n'importe quoi qui soit encore plus séduisant sur le papier, si l'Administration reste entre les mains des Musulmans on n'aura rien fait. Les Arméniens le savent plus que personne, parce que ce sont eux qui souffrent. Mr. Layard reconnaît que leur situation a toujours empiré. Voilà pourquoi ils ont sincèrement et ouvertement demandé ce qui seul peut les sauver. Ils n'ont cherché à tromper personne et n'ont pas voulu se laisser tromper. Avec la même franchise, ils disent aujourd'hui aux Puissances: "Voulez-vous améliorer notre sort, donnez-nous une Administration Chrétienne fortement organisée. Le reste ne signifie rien." Voilà ce qu'ils disent; les évènements ont prouvé jusqu'ici qu'ils avaient raison, et si une autre voie était de nouveau suivie, les évènements leur donneront encore raison. Mais alors ce que Mr. Layard craint sera arrivée.

Mr. Layard croit que si un essai quelconque était fait dans le sens de la demande des Arméniens, de graves conséquences s'en suivraient pour les Arméniens eux-mêmes. Les Turcs massacreraient les Arméniens, les Russes interviendraient, l'Arménie serait absorbée par la Russie, et cette antique nation comme sa langue et sa religion disparaîtraient définitivement.

Ce n'est pas la première fois qu'une Administration Chrétienne se forme dans les provinces de la Turquie. Au Liban les Druzes ne massacrent pas les Maronites depuis qu'une Administration Chrétienne autonome y est établie. En Crète les Musulmans ne massacrent pas les Grecs. Mais des massacres avaient lieu lorsqu'ils y avait une Administration Musulmane. Est-ce que le Musulman de l'Arménie déteste plus l'Arménien que le Druze ne déteste le Maronite et que le Musulman de Candie le Grec? Ce ne sont pas les Musulmans de l'Arménie qui sont mauvais, ce ne sont pas même les Kurdes qui sont les plus mauvais, mais c'est l'Administration Musulmane qui est mauvaise, parce que c'est l'oppression au lieu d'être la protection, et que par sa nature même elle ne peut pas être autre chose.

Les Arméniens sont en minorité, dit Mr. Layard. Ils ne sont pas en minorité là où ils demandent l'autonomie. Et s'ils sont en minorité, tant mieux pour les Musulmans. Tout ce qu'une autonomie contient de franchises locales profitera alors plutôt aux Musulmans qu'aux Chrétiens. Pourquoi donc les Musulmans massacreraient-ils les Arméniens, qui sont ordinairement doux et paisibles? Les Musulmans savent qu'un Gouverneur Arménien ne fera pas une injustice aux Arméniens, mais ils savent aussi qu'avant tout il sera juste pour eux. Mr. Layard croit que ce qui se passe en Roumélie Orientale n'est pas de nature à inspirer de la confiance aux Musulmans de l'Arménie. Je ne sais pas ce qui se passe en Roumélie Orientale, mais les Musulmans de l'Arménie le savent encore moins.

Ces dangers n'existent pas. La vérité est que lorsque la demande des Arméniens s'est produite pour la première fois personne ne l'a trouvée extraordinaire. Le Gouvernement Turc n'en a pas été effrayé, et le Gouvernement Anglais l'a trouvée assez raisonnable. Après le Traité de San Stéfano il fallait accepter ou l'intervention Russe en Asie ou l'autonomie de l'Arménie. Mais dans l'intervalle la Chypre a été imaginée. Dans les négociations qui eurent lieu avec la Porte on lui parla de la perspective d'une domination Russe en Asie où la Russie s'était ménagé par l'Article concernant les Arméniens une action immédiate et permanente; on lui représenta l'autonomie Arménienne comme le prélude d'un nouveau démembrement de la Turquie, et pour sauver la Porte et de la

domination Russe et de l'autonomie Arménienne, ou lui offrit la Convention de Chypre. Depuis lors la Porte et Sir Layard ont combattu l'autonomie Arménienne et se sont servis des arguments qui se trouvent en partie dans un ancien Roman de Lord Beaconsfield, le "Tancrède."

No. 229.

Mr. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 113.) *Tehran, May* 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, since receiving the Marquis of Salisbury's despatch No. 82 of the 28th August last, I have had several conversations with the Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of the depredations committed by the Kurdish tribes inhabiting the Turco-Persian frontier, and have urged upon his Highness the expediency of his entering into a formal agreement with Turkey for keeping these tribes under control, and for preventing them from taking refuge across the border when pursued by the authorities and troops of either country.

His Highness has assured me that he is not only willing, but desirous to conclude such an arrangement with the Porte, and that as soon as the Turkish Ambassador here has received the necessary authority to negotiate a Convention for that purpose the matter will receive his earnest attention.

Fabri Bey has been informed by telegram from Constantinople that a draft Convention on this subject will shortly reach him, which he is authorized to submit to the Persian Government, but the despatch referred to in that communication has not yet been received by his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 230.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 36.) *Therapia, June* 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract of a despatch addressed to the Porte by the Governor-General of Van, dated the 20th January last, which has been communicated to me by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the subject of the Kurdish outrages in the districts of Hakkiari and Djoulamerk, and of the reported Armenian emigration to Russia. I have communicated this document to Captain Clayton.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 230.

Extract from a Despatch from the Governor-General of Van, date January $\frac{5}{17}$, 1880.

Sublime Porte, le 10 *Juin*, 1880.

LE fait de la destruction par les Kurdes d'une centaine de villages Chrétiens dans le district de Kalkian et à Djoulamerk aussi bien que les actes attribués aux troupes Impériales et à l'émigration de la population en Russie ne sont pas exacts. Il est vrai que les districts frontières de la Perse, habités d'ailleurs par des peuplades à demi-sauvages et turbulentes et par un nombre très-restreint de Nestoriens deviennent souvent le théâtre des incursions des Kurdes nomades qui, profitant de la proximité du territoire Persan, exercent leurs déprédations et échappent au châtiment en repassant la frontière. Mais il est à noter: (1) que les villages Musulmans sont tout autant l'objet de leurs attaques et souffrent de leurs actes de pillage aussi bien que les villages Chrétiens; (2) que cet état de choses date depuis longtemps et qu'il est possible qu'il ait amené en partie la destruction graduelle de localités habitées et la dispersion de leurs habitants. Le Gouvernement Impérial s'est plus d'une fois efforcé de remédier à cette situation à mettre la population sédentaire à l'abri des incursions des tribus nomades, des démonstrations militaires ont été même faites à diverses reprises mais sans résultats. Le tracé défectueux de la ligne-

frontière et les vieilles contestations en matière de territoire entre les deux Etats voisins ont principalement contribué à prolonger cet état de choses. L'année passée quelques villages du district du Guévar ont été pillés et en partie brûlés par ces bandes; mais grâce à des dispositions militaires aussitôt prises les bandes ont dû se disperser et les autorités continuent à rechercher les coupables. On tâche en même temps d'introduire les réformes nécessaires pour adoucier les mœurs sauvages des tribus du district qui sont souvent en guerre les uns contre les autres.

Les populations qui ont abandonné leurs foyers y ont été contraintes par la famine qui sévit dans la province et n'attendent que le retour du printemps pour rentrer et s'adonner aux travaux agricoles.

No. 231.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

(No. 37.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June* 14, 1880.

WITH reference to Sir H. Layard's telegram No. 265 of the 31st ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Angora, reporting the departure of the Defterdar, Husni Effendi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 231.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 82.)

Sir, *Angora, June* 5, 1880.

INCLOSED I beg to hand your Excellency copies of telegrams forwarded and received with regard to the dismissal of Husni Effendi, the Defterdar or Accountant-General of the province.

I have further to inform your Excellency that the official referred to left this city on Thursday last for Constantinople, and that he took his departure in characteristic fashion, perfectly assured that his summons to Constantinople only indicated an early return with increased powers and higher rank, and, should it prove otherwise, vowing the direst vengeance against all foreigners in general and English in particular.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 231.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Angora, April* 30, 1880.

NOTWITHSTANDING Savas Pasha's promise, Defterdar still in power. Vali Khourshid Pasha earnestly desires to have further opportunity of completing evidence necessary to convict him of dishonesty and insulting conduct.

Inclosure 3 in No. 231.

Sir A. H. Layard to Vice-Consul Gatheral.

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 21, 1880.

I AM officially informed that the Defterdar will be immediately removed.

Inclosure 4 in No. 231.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, May 27, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)
TELEGRAM 21st received. Defterdar still in power. Dismissal officially and categorically denied.

Inclosure 5 in No. 231.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Sir A. H. Layard.

Angora, June 1, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)
DEFTERDAR at last dismissed. All classes desire sender convey thanks congratulating your Excellency, desiring your great influence in securing nomination honest, capable successor.

No. 232.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Earl Granville.—(Received June 22.)

Constantinople, June 14, 1880.

(No. 21.)
My Lord,
I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 232.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

Brusa, May 28, 1880.

(No. 47.)
Sir,
HAVING recently travelled through a large portion of the Sandjaks of Smyrna, Aidin, and Sarukhan (Manisa), in the Vilayet of Aidin, I beg to forward to your Excellency some remarks on matters which came under my notice.

Condition of the People.—Though the Vilayet of Aidin is the richest in Anatolia, and the valleys of the Hermus and Meander are remarkable for their fertility, I found the peasantry in many districts, especially in those from 2,000 feet to 3,000 feet above the sea-level, suffering much from scarcity of food. In some places the villagers were grinding walnut-shells and the stalk of the Indian corn for flour, which was used to thicken a sort of broth made with herbs; and in others they were eating a biscuit made of unground barley and sour milk. The peasantry had no corn left in their hands, and there would have been a serious famine if it had not been for the existence of the railways, which have been carrying grain to the interior since the month of January. On the 15th May the Smyrna and Cassaba Railway had forwarded 4,861 tons, and it was then transporting grain at the rate of 100 tons per diem; the Smyrna and Aidin Railway had also sent 2,000 tons, and each day the quantity was increasing. The grain was conveyed from the railway stations either by the villagers themselves who came from long distances, or by large caravans of camels. The prices were everywhere very high, at Denizli, for instance, the centre of a rich district within three days' journey of the Aidin terminus, with which it is connected by a good araba road, the kilé of wheat had risen from 30 to 80 piastres; barley from 15 to 40 piastres; and millet from 18 to 50 piastres. The better class of villagers were borrowing money at exorbitant rates of interest to purchase corn, and these men were helping those who could not obtain credit. The principal sufferers were the widows of men who fell during the late war.

I did not hear of many cases of death from starvation, and I attribute this to the prompt action of the Mutessarif of Sarukhan, who went to the worst districts and made arrangements for the transport and distribution of corn. The executive details appear to have been well carried out by the Kaïmakam of Salikli, a young man of some energy and capacity.

The scarcity has been caused in part by land going out of cultivation in consequence of the enormous loss of life during the war, and by the presence of a large unproductive population of refugees; and in part by the intense severity of the winter, which for a long time stopped all transport, and by the locusts which have for the last five years devastated the province.

The prospects for this year are, I regret to state, very gloomy; locusts have again appeared in large numbers both in the Hermus and Meander Valleys. Near Alashehr men were cutting the half-ripened barley sooner than have it to be eaten. On both lines of railway the trains have now to be run with two engines; and in numbers of places I saw the ground black with young locusts. Great fears are entertained for the barley and wheat harvests, and I fear the cotton crop, which will be coming up when the locusts will have attained their most destructive stage, will be almost entirely lost. The exceptional cold last winter and the length of time the snow lay on the ground have also caused much loss; in the lower districts the orange, pomegranate, and olive trees have suffered severely, the opium sown before winter has been almost destroyed, and much damage has been done to the bean crop; in the higher districts the corn sown in autumn has in great measure failed, and in consequence of the snow there has been no spring sowing. In many places I visited there will be no wheat or barley harvest this year; the peasants were sowing durra, but as this cannot be reaped until the middle or end of August, a period remains during which the Local Government will have to supply and distribute corn. The worst districts are the Demirji and Ekmek Cazas, respectively north and east of Alashehr, in both of which there have been a few deaths from starvation; in many villages bread is now rarely or never seen. On the Dawas Ora, south-west of Denizli, there is also much suffering, though no one appears to have died of want. It is difficult to realize the condition of the peasantry without living amongst them as I have done recently, but I am glad to say that his Highness Hamdi Pasha is fully alive to the necessity of prompt action, and that he and the Mutessarif of Sarukhan are anxious, as far as they can, to alleviate the general misery.

Security to Life and Property.—The stories of brigandage and robbery in the interior which find ready credence at Smyrna are much exaggerated; it is true that there are occasional cases, but they appear to be confined to a small area near Smyrna and the coast. I made a point of questioning the villagers with regard to robberies, and could hear of few, and those were chiefly of a trifling nature. Every one agreed that two or three years ago the state of the country was very bad, and the improvement in certain districts was generally attributed to the action of the Smyrna and Cassaba Railway Company in establishing guard-houses at their own cost to protect the principal trade routes. Several robber-bands have been broken up through the efforts of the Mutessarif of Sarukhan, and since the submission of the noted brigand, Pilch Osman, they have had no recognized head. The story of this man is characteristic of Turkish government; for years he was the scourge of the country, and was known to have committed several murders with his own hands, besides being guilty of other atrocities; a few months ago, however, he announced his intention of making his submission, and on entering Kirkagatch, with four or five armed followers, he was met by the Kaïmakam, the officials, and notables of that place, and received as if he had been the Governor-General rather than a bandit satiated with crime. He now lives on his estate near Aksar, an encouragement for others to follow in his footsteps.

The worst district appears at present to be that included in the triangle Smyrna-Aivali-Aksar. At Bergama a well-known Greek robber lives openly in the town, in which he has robbed several people, apparently with the connivance of the police, and at Ali Agha I met a Greek gentleman who had been carried to the mountains a year ago, and ransomed for 300*l*. Some cases in which the Moslem murderers of Christians remained unpunished were also brought to my notice; this, however, occurs in every part of Anatolia.

On the whole, the state of the district visited compares favourably with that of the Sivas Vilayet last year, and I feel certain that if some of the robbers were summarily punished, and murderers were executed instead of being allowed to make their peace with the Government, the country would soon be perfectly tranquil. It is only surprising that robbery and petty pilfering are not more frequent when the state of the peasantry is considered, but though trains of horses, donkeys, and camels laden with grain are constantly passing through the country with only two or three unarmed attendants, I never heard of an instance in which corn had been stolen.

Administration of Justice.—Nearly everywhere complaints were made to me of the unsuitability of the new legal regulations to the people; the corruption of the Cadis and members of the Courts; the difficulty in getting a suit brought to a termination in any reasonable time; the manner in which Christian evidence, if received, is disregarded, and

the heavy expenses under the new rules which render justice a luxury beyond the reach of the poor. To recover 1,000 piastres an expenditure of 500 piastres is necessary.

The recent change by which the duties of Assistant Public Prosecutors in the cazas have been transferred from the Kaimakams to the officers commanding the zaptiehs is disapproved by every one, except by the thieves, who now have one official the less to bribe. The officer commanding the zaptiehs in a caza, who may be only a Lieutenant and barely able to read or write, is under the orders of the Kaimakam, and may at any moment be sent on duty to a distant part of the caza; he might be detained there a fortnight or three weeks, and during this time there would be no one to carry on the duties of Public Prosecutor. The officers of zaptiehs dislike the arrangement, for it throws additional work upon them without increase of pay; they know nothing of law, and do not care to learn. The change is another instance of the tendency to diminish as much as possible the authority of the Governor-General of a vilayet and his subordinates. I think that in the present state of the country this policy is open to grave objection.

The pay of the Cadis and members of the Courts is much in arrear, and I was told by one Cadi that he had been directed to pay into the local chest fees which were intended to meet the expenses of the Law Courts.

The zaptiehs are also in arrears, and complained of the reduction of 2 piastres per month in their small pay.

Tithes.—The tithes are this year to be collected by Government, and I am sorry to say that, in some cazas, 12½ per cent. is to be taken; the additional 2½ per cent. is for the construction of roads and telegraphs. At Bergama a Committee has been formed to which the 2½ per cent. is to be handed over by the tithe-collector—a rather clumsy arrangement, which will give great facilities for fraud. Public works are very necessary for the development of the country, but it is doubtful whether it be wise to impose fresh burdens on the peasantry at the present moment. I estimate that not three-fourths of the land cultivated last year has been tilled in this, and the harvest prospects are bad. An official of high rank told me that he thought more than one-half of the land in his district had gone out of cultivation.

The peasant, from the grain he raises, has to pay 10 per cent. to Government, 1 per cent. to the man who measures the grain, 1 per cent. to the village priest or imam, 1 per cent. to the village watchman, 1 per cent. to the goatherd, and he loses about 1½ per cent. by fraudulent measurement. This gives a total of 15½ per cent., or, in cazas where the road tax is levied, 18 per cent. In addition, the tithe-collectors take for themselves about 3 per cent., and live at free quarters on the villagers. There is also a loss from bad weather and insects whilst the grain is lying on the ground awaiting measurement. From this must be deducted 3 or 4 per cent. for gleanings purposely left on the fields, which pay no tithe, and about 1 per cent. which the peasant and his family manage to steal from the grain heaps and conceal from the collectors.

The system of collection is radically wrong. A district is flooded with officials on low pay, who are allowed to net very much as they please, and, as a rule, take every opportunity of cheating the Government and robbing the people. In one district of eighty villages, some containing only four or five houses, I found thirty tithe divisions, each with a collector and two clerks, receiving pay at 250 piastres (2*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*), 100 piastres (17*s.* 6*d.*), and 50 piastres (8*s.* 9*d.*) per month, respectively. The whole district was in charge of a collector receiving 1,500 piastres (13*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*) per month, and two clerks each at 200 piastres (1*l.* 15*s.*). There were thus for one small district no less than ninety-three officials, receiving nominally from Government 13,900 piastres (121*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*) per month, and all taking bribes and living upon the villagers. When the grain is measured it is placed, in bulk, in granaries, sometimes on damp earth floors, which soon renders much of it unfit for use. I need hardly point out there will be a serious diminution in the revenue this year.

Refugees.—The refugee question in the Aidin Vilayet is, as elsewhere, a troublesome one. In several places the refugees presented petitions to me, complaining that, although they had been two years in the country, no land had been granted to them for settlement, and that, since the issue of the Government ration of grain had been stopped, they had undergone much suffering and privation.

I have often urged Turkish officials to deal promptly with this question, as one that keeps the whole of Anatolia in an unsettled state, and have pointed out to them that the support, directly or indirectly, of such a large indigent and non-working population was a severe tax upon the country and the people. There are, however, difficulties, partly due to the Porte, partly to the refugees themselves, and partly to local causes, which the provincial officials find it no easy matter to overcome.

I have in a previous despatch drawn attention to the refugee question in Eastern Anatolia. In Western Anatolia the refugees are Bulgarian and Roumelian Moslems, Circassians of the Abbas, Aburkh, and Shabsekh tribes from Bulgaria and Roumelia, and Tartars from the Dobrudscha. The first, coming from the most fertile districts of European Turkey, are animated by an intense love of their former homes, and would undergo any hardships or suffering to return to them. The Circassians have a strong feeling of clanship, and wish to be settled by families or tribes; whilst the Tartars who left the Crimea after the Crimean war, and afterwards fled from the Dobrudscha, only desire to find some place where they may settle down and earn their livelihood in peace. The Tartars have neither the love of country of the Bulgarian Moslems nor the clannish feeling of the Circassians, and they readily amalgamate with the Anatolian peasantry.

The orders and counter-orders issued by the Porte with reference to the Bulgarian and Roumelian Moslems have been the cause of much needless suffering. The unfortunate people were at first distributed amongst the villages; they were afterwards ordered to return to Europe, and numbers went to Constantinople, whilst the others were collected at the ports of embarkation, or the principal towns of their districts; an order then came that they were to remain in Anatolia, and they had to find their way back to their villages in winter. In March last I met several long trains of men, women, and children painfully making their way on foot through the deep snow.

The Circassians were also distributed amongst the villages, two or three families to each, but no arrangement was made to keep them in their new homes, and they soon left to join other members of their tribe, gradually forming large Circassian communities in different parts of the country. The local officials have been unable to deal with these cases in consequence of the influence exerted by the Circassians at the Porte.

I have previously drawn attention to the complete failure of the Refugee Commissioners and their highly-paid staffs, which were appointed by the Porte.

The refugees, especially the Circassians, sometimes create difficulties by asking for lands which cannot be granted to them, and by refusing to settle on lands assigned to them by the Local Government. If any pressure is put on the Circassians they at once write a petition and forward it to their friends at Stamboul, knowing that it will be presented and receive attention in the highest official quarters. The Local Government then receives a hint to let the matter drop. The principal local difficulty is a financial one; land is useless to a penniless refugee if he be not given oxen to plough, seed to sow, and some place to live in. For these necessary expenses the provincial authorities are not allowed to issue a single piastre from the local chests—the revenue of the vilayets is required at Stamboul.

The land difficulty is also great; much of the richest land belongs to Turkish notables who own large estates or "chiftliks." On these estates there is waste land, used only as sheep runs, sufficient to settle all the refugees. Some of the land has not been cultivated for years, and by Turkish law should revert to the State, but the notables have such influence in Constantinople that the law has hitherto been evaded. The Governor-General has no power to take possession of waste lands, as all matters connected with landed property are under the Land Department. It would be easy for the land officials to take possession of these lands and hand them over to the Governor-General for distribution amongst the refugees, but I fear there is little chance of the Porte's adopting such a simple line of action. The notables have in some instances tried to induce refugees to settle on their waste lands, but the conditions attached to settlement would have turned the refugees into serfs, and they very naturally refused.

I must, in justice, say that I have seen a more real effort to deal with the refugee question in the Aidin Vilayet than elsewhere, and that his Highness the Vali, the Mutessarif of Sarukhan, and some of the Kaimakams appeared anxious to do what they could to effect a settlement. The Mutessarif of Sarukhan seemed to have been specially active, and to have been able to provide oxen and houses for many of the refugees; he told me that he hoped all in his district would be settled before autumn.

The settlement of the refugees might be effected with no great difficulty if the Porte were in earnest. All that is necessary is a well-considered scheme to be rigidly carried out in the provinces, however unpleasant it may be to local notables and individual refugees. Money might be obtained by the sale of the lands from which the refugees have fled in Bulgaria, the Dobrudscha, and Eastern Roumelia. On political, financial, and humanitarian grounds, the question is one deserving of serious and urgent attention.

Slave Case.—A case in which there was good reason to believe that a Turkish notable was going to sell one of his slaves was brought to my notice by the British Consular Agent at Aidin. I had an interview with the gentleman, and the slave was afterwards freed with the formalities required by law.

Reforms.—I have seen nowhere any attempts to introduce reforms in the Administration, and have met with very few officials capable of supervising their introduction. The country does not want an army of needy officials always in arrear of pay, or new laws unsuitable to the habits of the people, and opposed to the current of Ottoman thought; the provinces require men to govern them who shall combine justice and firmness with common sense, and an administrative service purified of its extraordinary corruption.

It is, however, useless to expect good government until the system under which nearly all the revenue of a province is sent to the capital has been abolished. Financial reform, or retrenchment of expenses at the capital, is the first and most urgent necessity; when this has been accomplished it will not be difficult to deal with the gendarmerie, the Law Courts, education, and public works.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 232.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 48.)
Sir,

Brusa, May 20, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I found much distress in the Ushak Caza of the Kutaya Sandjak of the Vilayet of Brusa, caused, I regret to say, in great measure, by the action of the Kaïmakam (Governor). I was informed on good authority that seventy deaths had occurred from starvation, and believe this to be an underrather than an over-estimate, as the villagers are now afraid to give information when one of their number dies of want.

The town of Ushak is well known as the place in which most of the Turkey carpets are made for the European markets; there are good vineyards and gardens in its immediate vicinity, and the soil of the greater portion of the caza is rich, and favourable to the growth of cereals, opium, &c. There are several large villages, and the tithes have on occasion sold for £T. 50,000 (about 45,000*l.*). The caza is thus a rich one, and should, as far as the necessaries of life are concerned, be self-supporting.

Last year Ushak, like the surrounding districts, was visited by locusts, which did very great damage to the crops; the harvest was therefore bad, and the bad harvest was followed by a winter of unexampled severity. The villagers were, from the first, anxious as to the future, but their anxiety was somewhat allayed by the knowledge that the tithes had been collected by Government, and the grain stored in the village granaries. During the autumn the villagers heard that the tithing was to be sold to M. Zarifi, and, becoming greatly alarmed for the future, drew up a petition to the Local Government, in which they stated that they had not sufficient grain to last them until the next harvest, and that they were prepared to purchase that in the granaries at the price offered by any other purchaser. The Kaïmakam replied that it was not in his power to grant their request, as the grain had been sold to M. Zarifi at Constantinople.

When M. Zarifi's agent went to the granaries with a number of zaptiehs to take over the grain, the villagers opposed the delivery, saying that they needed the grain for themselves, and would pay the same price for it as M. Zarifi. The agent, not being able to obtain possession, returned to Ushak, and gave the Kaïmakam a list containing the names of forty villagers who he said had opposed the delivery. He demanded that these men should be arrested and sent in chains to Kutaya, and when some hesitation was shown, abused the Kaïmakam and Administrative Council in very strong language, adding that he would write to M. Zarifi, and have them dismissed, banished, or otherwise punished. The Kaïmakam and Council, fearing the resentment of M. Zarifi, who is popularly supposed to be the most powerful and influential man in Turkey, agreed to the demand of the agent, and arrested the forty villagers; eighteen were sent, under armed escort, in chains to Kutaya, and the others placed in the Ushak prison. After this the delivery was effected, and the agent, who had bought the grain at 32 piastres per kilé, soon sold it to local merchants for 55 to 60 piastres; some of these men are now selling the grain at 75 to 80 piastres, whilst others are holding on for higher prices. The villagers are quite unable to pay these exorbitant rates, and have more than once applied to the Local Government for assistance. On the first occasion a piastre was given to each of eighty or ninety old women; on the second they were sent away empty, and told they were not to complain of being hungry. Some refugees who came to report the death of two of their number from starvation were imprisoned. The Kaïmakam never informed his superior,

the Mutessarif of Kutaya, of the distress, or took any steps to relieve it by obtaining corn from Alashehr, only three days' journey for camels.

The distress has become very real, but it is impossible to find out how many people have really died. The peasantry are living as they can, and I was informed that the timely arrival of a large caravan with corn from Konieh two days before I reached Ushak had probably saved many lives.

On entering the Ushak Caza I at once suspected, from the appearance of the country, that something was wrong. Not more than one-fourth of the land under cultivation last year had been tilled in this; few people were working in the fields; and though the vines and the ground were in many places quite black with young locusts, no one seemed to have energy enough to attempt to destroy them; the apathy of despair seemed to have settled down on most of the people.

It was hinted to me that the Kaïmakam had acted in the manner described for a money consideration; the effect was certainly to run up prices and fill the pockets of a few merchants at the expense of the starving peasantry. The name of the Kaïmakam is Hussein Midhat Effendi.

On reaching Kutaya I lost no time in bringing the state of the Ushak Caza to the notice of the Mutessarif of that place, Haidar Effendi. He told me that before the grain was sold to M. Zarifi he asked the Kaïmakam whether the villagers had sufficient corn to last them until the next harvest, and that the answer sent to him was that there was an ample supply. He also said that when the eighteen men arrived in chains at Kutaya he at once released them, and, at the same time, sent orders for the release of the villagers who had been placed in the Ushak prison. Haidar Effendi assured me that he would never allow the Kaïmakam, who had been suspended and called to Kutaya for examination, to return to his post. He told me also before I left that he had sent an Acting Kaïmakam, in whom he had confidence, to Ushak, and proposed to go there himself in three days' time to see that a proper supply of corn was brought up from Alashehr and that some steps were taken to destroy the locusts.

I believe that Haidar Effendi, whose name is probably known to your Excellency, will do all that he can, and I trust that his exertions may meet with success.

Ushak is a curious instance of the difficulty of obtaining information in this country without personal observation; no one at Alashehr appeared to be aware of the extent of the distress, and I was quite unprepared to find it so much worse than the cazas which had been previously pointed out to me as those in which the greatest distress prevailed.

His Highness Ahmet Tefyk Pasha, the Vali of Brusa, to whom I mentioned the distress at Ushak, seemed confident that Haidar Effendi would be able to deal with it. He complained of the inefficiency of some of the Kaïmakams sent to him from Constantinople, and said that the last two or three appointed to Ushak had unfortunately turned out badly.

His Highness told me that much distress prevailed in many parts of the Brusa Vilayet, and he seemed to look forward with some uneasiness to the period which must elapse before this year's harvest has been gathered.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 232.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 49.)
Sir,

Constantinople, June 3, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a telegram which I have received from Captain Stewart, 11th Hussars, respecting the elections to the Idaré (Administrative) Council of the Sivas Vilayet.

In his despatch No. 13, Political, of the 13th May last, Captain Stewart states that there was every probability that Mehemet Ali Effendi and the Sivas "ring," whose proceedings I have alluded to in previous despatches, would be re-elected; and it appears from the inclosed telegram that, to procure this result, the Vali, Hakki Pasha, is exerting pressure upon the members of the Administrative Council of Amasia who have declined to accept the names submitted to them for election by the Governor-General and his advisers.

During Abeddin Pasha's tenure of office the influence of Mehemet Ali and his friends was comparatively slight, and the late Vali told me, before I left Sivas, that he did not

intend to include the names of the most prominent members of the "ring" in the lists submitted to the electors.

Unfortunately his successor, Hakki Pasha, appears to have different views, and to be following a line of action which will soon reduce the vilayet to the state in which Abeddin Pasha found it last year. The introduction of any kind of reform, or of improvement, into the Sivas Vilayet is impossible if Mehemet Ali and his clique remain in power.

It is greatly to the credit of the members of the Administrative Council of Amasia that they should have had the boldness to decline to accept the candidates proposed to them, as Mehemet Ali is well known to be a man of the most vindictive character, who would not scruple to use any means to procure the ruin or ill-treatment of those who oppose his schemes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 233.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 23.*)

(No. 14. Political.) *Diarbekir, May 5, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of Foreign Office despatch No. 13 of the 13th April, forwarding a printed copy of a memorandum communicated to Lord Salisbury by the Archbishop of Canterbury on outrages alleged to have been committed on Syrian Jacobites during the last year.

In compliance with Lord Salisbury's instructions, I have the honour to submit a Report on the subject. I have carefully read the memorandum in question, which was originally received by the Archbishop from the Syrian Patriarch of Antioch.

In some cases it has been impossible to identify the names of persons and places, owing, doubtless, to the combined errors of translators, copyists, and printers. In the first paragraph, for instance, there is apparently a confusion between the words village and caza, which latter word means a small district or aggregation of villages. I believe, however, although I cannot with certainty identify the names, that this paragraph alludes to what I reported to the Foreign Office more than a year ago (*vide* Blue Book No. 10, p. 51, of 1879), where I give some extracts from a letter received by me from Captain Cameron, C.B., from Aznaor, one day's march east of Nisibin. "This village Aznaor is the centre of a district containing ten villages of Syrian Jacobites. Within the last year ten Christian villages have been destroyed and robbed by soldiers, zaptiehs, and Kurds, and in this village fifty or sixty houses have been destroyed within about two months. Part of the latter destruction was done by zaptiehs, and part by Kurds."

The "Hadjiko" of the second paragraph is the famous Hadju Bey, about whom full details will be found in the same Blue Book, pp. 55, 56, 57, and 61.

The details given on p. 56 differ considerably from those given in the Patriarch's memorandum, but as I obtained my information at the village of Mezizeh itself from eye-witnesses of the occurrences described, I believe my own account to be more reliable. This same Hadju Bey is still at large, and distinguished himself only a few months ago by attacking the Jacobite village of Bedip, where he killed two men. When the Imperial Commissioners were here last year, a large reward was offered for the capture of Hadju, dead or alive; but although hard pressed, he has not yet been captured.

It is, perhaps, unnecessary to criticize in detail the numerous outrages alleged to have been committed. I believe them to be all founded upon fact, although in many instances there is considerable exaggeration. I am happy to say, however, that with one exception, viz., of Keferzo, none of the outrages described have occurred during the past twelve months. The great majority took place during and immediately subsequent to the late war.

I have had with me to day the priests and principal representatives of the Syrian Jacobite community from Diarbekir and one or two of the surrounding villages, and they one and all assured me that during the past year they have had almost entire immunity from outrages on the part of the Kurds and others of the nature described in the memorandum. They attributed the improved condition of things entirely to my presence here, and although I doubt not that the presence of a British and a Russian Consul have been decidedly productive of a change for the better, yet I would principally attribute the improved state of affairs to the banishment last summer by Abeddin Pasha and Mamasse Effendi, the Imperial Commissioners, of more than 100 of the principal Beys

and Aghas from the Diarbekir Vilayet. There has also been a partial recovery by the Local Government of the influence which during the late war was at the lowest possible ebb. Nearly all the regular troops were at that time employed on the frontier, and the local Kurdish Chiefs took advantage of their absence to fight amongst themselves, and plunder weak and defenceless villages. There was no security whatever for life or property, either Christian or Mahommedan, in many of the districts in this vilayet, even right up to the walls of Diarbekir. Matters, although better than they were, are by no means in a satisfactory state. Robberies by large bands of armed men are of by no means unfrequent occurrence, and no proper precautions are taken to prevent them, although it is true that after they have taken place the authorities send a few soldiers or zaptiehs to the spot. A number of arrests are made, more often, I fear, of innocent than of guilty people, and the said prisoners are generally left to languish in gaol for an indefinite number of months without being either convicted or acquitted. Those who are robbed rarely, if ever, receive compensation for their losses.

When such robberies occur within 40 or 50 miles of Diarbekir I generally hear of them, but in the more remote districts of the vilayet minor outrages may often occur of which I hear nothing. Anything very serious, however, is sure to be brought to my notice almost immediately, and I lose no opportunity of urging the Vali to do what is right, but unfortunately the Vali lacks both ability and energy; his surroundings are corrupt, and his subordinates are both corrupt and inefficient.

There is no properly organized gendarmerie, and when a force of military or police is sent into a disturbed district, it often happens that many villages suffer more from those who are deputed to protect them than they do from the original brigands.*

With the Government in its present enfeebled and inefficient state, I regret to say that there is some prospect that the exiled Kurdish Chiefs (for whose summary banishment last year Abeddin Pasha, in my opinion, deserved the highest praise) will again be let loose on the country to wreak their vengeance on those who complained against them, and continue their former vicious careers. Your Lordship will be able to form some opinion of what the state of the country has been and what it is probable it may again become by a perusal of the memorandum submitted by the Patriarch of Antioch, now under consideration, as well as from the pages of Blue Book No. 10 of 1879.

It will be recollected that about this time last year the Sublime Porte sent three Imperial Commissions to the eastern provinces of Turkey in Asia to institute and carry out the reforms which had been promised to Her Majesty's Government.

The first of these was sent to Aleppo, and, as far as I am aware, the principal result of that Commission (Blue Book No. 1 of 1880) was the free pardon of the Christian brigands and insurgents of Zeitoun.

Another Commission was sent to introduce reforms into the Vilayets of Erzeroum and Van. I reported fully on the proceedings of that Commission while at Erzeroum last year, but beyond the fact that the country was probably, for the time being, somewhat better governed than it would otherwise have been, I cannot call to mind any single important or permanent reform that it introduced. The Commissioners have spent the winter at Van, but beyond having swallowed up as salaries a considerable portion of the Imperial revenues, I cannot make out from Captain Clayton's Reports that they have been doing anything whatever in the way of reforming the country.

The third Commission, composed of Abeddin Bey (now Abeddin Pasha) and Manas Effendi, was sent to Diarbekir. Abeddin Pasha was a young and energetic Albanian with his spurs to win. He introduced a system of police in the large towns, which in Diarbekir itself, at all events, has been, so far, a success. In Mardin and Kharput it proved a failure. The great work of Abeddin Pasha was the riddance of the country from a great number of its hereditary oppressors. He summoned to Diarbekir the principal Kurdish Beys and Aghas whose tyrannies and oppressions had been the curse of the country for many years. After a preliminary investigation, Abeddin Pasha, by a *coup de main*, obtained possession of their persons, and sent them off, many of them at three hours' notice, in exile to Albania, where he intended they should be followed by their families, and lands be assigned to them for their maintenance.

While Abeddin Pasha was acting thus at Diarbekir, he was ably seconded by his colleague, Manas Effendi, at Kharput. This gentleman, by one means and another, secured the persons of many of the most oppressive and lawless Chiefs of the Midyad district, and they too were sent to Aleppo *en route* for Albania. Amongst their number I notice the names of Ibrahim Hasso and others whose names appear in the memorandum given by His Grace. But this unexpected and unwished-for energy proved too much for the Porte. Although, in the first instance, his measures had been sanctioned, Abeddin

* It is requested that this paragraph be considered confidential, and that it be not printed.

Pasha was subsequently reprimanded for his excess of zeal, and was removed from the scene of his labours on nomination to the Governorship of Sivas. Meanwhile, the exiles were all detained at Aleppo, pending further inquiry into their cases.

Although it must be admitted that Abeddin Pasha's proceedings were somewhat arbitrary, it was the only practical way of ridding the country of these scourges. In the Keghi district of the Erzeroum Vilayet, where many of the Aghas carried on much in the same way as in this province, the Erzeroum Commissioners investigated several cases, and came to the conclusion that many of the accused Aghas were deserving of severe punishment. I repeatedly urged their Excellencies to act as Abeddin Pasha had done at Diarbekir, and have these men exiled by special order of the Sultan, but they, knowing that the Porte had stopped the exiled Chiefs at Aleppo, and had intimated its disapproval of some of Abeddin Pasha's proceedings, declined taking that responsibility upon themselves. They argued that before many months, or perhaps weeks, were over the exiled Chiefs would represent that they had not been condemned in accordance with law, and would ultimately be permitted to return to be a curse to the country. To avoid the possibility of this, Yussuf Pasha assured me he would guarantee that these Beys should be sentenced by lawful Tribunals, so that when once condemned, as they undoubtedly would be, to long terms of imprisonment, they would be unable to escape. I could only reply to this that the Commissioners would probably proceed elsewhere long before the sentences were passed, and that, knowing as I did the thorough corruption of the Courts, and the great local influence in the Courts of Erzeroum of the Beys in question, I was quite sure that no sufficient punishment would be awarded. That I was perfectly right in my prognostication has been abundantly proved by numerous despatches of Captain Everett since my departure from Erzeroum. It was in consequence of the failure of the execution of justice in the Keghi cases that, with the sanction of Her Majesty's Secretary of State,* I separated myself from the Imperial Commissioners and went to Diarbekir for the winter instead of accompanying the Commissioners, as I had originally intended, to Van.

As before mentioned, the exiles from Diarbekir never reached Albania, the destination intended for them by Abeddin Pasha, but were stopped at Aleppo, from which place they have naturally enough carried on continual intrigues with a view to their return to their native country.

The fourth and last Imperial Commission, sent probably as a blind to Europe, was that of Baker Pasha. It turned out to be one of inquiry only. *Inter alia*, while at Aleppo, Baker Pasha inquired into the cases of some of these Beys, and his Excellency, as well as his colleague Said Pasha, personally informed me here in the spring that the conclusion they had come to (before hearing the accusers) was that some of the exiles ought to have been hanged, but that others were less guilty, and probably some were innocent. I had several conversations with Baker Pasha on the subject, and the result was that Baker Pasha telegraphed to the Porte recommending that Abeddin Pasha be directed to return to Diarbekir to carry out himself a careful and final examination into the cases of all the exiled Beys. I strongly supported this proposal in telegrams to Her Majesty's Ambassador, as being the only satisfactory solution of the difficulty. The Porte telegraphed to Baker Pasha directing him to make the necessary investigation, but his Excellency managed to escape the task, which would have detained him here for several months, and would have brought his own special mission to a premature end.

Meanwhile, Abeddin Pasha was nominated Vali of Salonica, and with his usual energy proceeded to join his new appointment the day following the receipt of his nomination. And now I learn that Aziz Pasha, the newly-appointed Vali of Kharput, has been directed to make inquiry into the matter before proceeding to take up his appointment. He has already been for some days at Aleppo prosecuting his investigations there, and is shortly expected here.

Your Lordship will, I hope, excuse my writing at such length on this subject, but it must be borne in mind that among these men who are now endeavouring to get restored to their native countries are some of the very individuals who are principally responsible for the evils so prominently brought to the notice of the Secretary of State by the Archbishop of Canterbury. The misdeeds of others are written in my own reports from here in the spring of 1879 (Blue Book No. 10), and some of them, notably Hamid Agha, of Suert, and his relations were inveighed against in the strongest language by Mr. Consul Taylor in 1868.† The village of Dih, mentioned in that despatch, is the identical village that was plundered by the same Hamid Agha in the spring of last year.‡

Aziz Pasha is expected in a few days' time. In anything that he does to eliminate the innocent from the list of exiles, and even to reduce the numbers by eliminating the

* Foreign Office despatch No. 32, October 9, 1879.

† Blue Book "Turkey No. 16 (1877)," p. 4.

‡ Ibid., pp. 18, 19.

names of those who are only guilty in a minor degree, he will have my cordial support, but I shall oppose, as much as lies in my power, any proposal to bring the whole of the exiles back to Diarbekir for trial before the local Courts, knowing full well as I do, that, with the frightful corruption which exists here, the most powerful and the most guilty, and therefore the most rich, will be sure to escape, while those who cannot afford to pay heavy bribes will be made scape-goats.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 234.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(Received June 23.)

(No. 15. Political.)
My Lord, *Diarbekir, May 20, 1880.*

IN continuation of my despatch No. 14, Political, of the 5th May, replying to Foreign Office No. 13 of the 13th April, I have the honour to forward copy of my despatch No. 24 of the 14th May to Her Majesty's Ambassador, calling his Excellency's attention to the case of the four Christians now in Diarbekir Gaol on sentence for having participated in the rebellion of last year, headed by the sons of the late Beder Khan Pasha.

I would also remark, with reference to the statements in page 17 of the printed memorandum communicated by his Grace of Canterbury, that I have been unable to learn anything about the reported proceedings of Abdo Agha, a Chief of Saded village, in the Caza of Hames. I believe the Hames referred to to be intended for Homs* in Syria. No one here amongst the Syrian community can give me any information on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

Inclosure in No. 234.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Diarbekir, May 14, 1880.*

IN a memorandum (which had been communicated to Lord Salisbury by the Archbishop of Canterbury) sent to me by the Secretary of State with his despatch No. 13 of the 3rd April, allusion is made to the fact of four Syrian Christians† being in prison in Diarbekir, on account of alleged implication in the Kurdish rebellion in Bohtan, in the winter of 1878-79, headed by Osman and Hussein Beys, the sons of the late Beder Khan Pasha.

These men were brought prisoners to Diarbekir about a year ago, in company with a large number of rebel Kurds. I made inquiries about their case at the time, and I ascertained that they had actually taken part in the insurrection, *i.e.*, that they had marched with a large body of Kurds to join the rebel brothers—in which body were about thirty men of their own village (Azekh, near Djezireh).

It also appeared that the village in question had not been visited by any of the rebel Chiefs, but by a couple of rebel agents only, who, whether by threats or persuasion it is hard to say, persuaded this large body of men to leave their homes to join the rebel Chiefs.

Under these circumstances, I did not feel justified at the time in interfering on their behalf. The insurrection had only just been subdued, and it was not then known what would be the fate of the rebel leaders.

These Chiefs were summoned to Constantinople, and have, I believe, been pardoned and rewarded.

As these four men have now endured one year's imprisonment out of the three to which they were originally sentenced, it would certainly be a gracious act on the part of the Sultan to remit the remainder of the sentence, and His Majesty might be the more likely to consent to this act of clemency if it were pointed out to him that the chiefs of the rebellion had been already pardoned.

But according to my views it would be only fair if the Kurdish villagers, who were sentenced and imprisoned along with the Christians, should also receive the benefit of the Imperial clemency.

* Or Hums.

† Named Georiyé, Lahdow, Ba-os, and Yusuf.

If, as alleged in the memorandum, it be true that the rebel Chiefs admitted that these villagers joined them by compulsion, and not of their own free will, it might perhaps not be difficult to prevail on His Majesty to grant a pardon. The truth of the statement might be ascertained on inquiry of Osman and Hussein Beys, at Constantinople.

I recollect that the friends of the villagers last year pleaded with me as a reason for their joining the rebels, that in the rebellion headed by the famous Beder Khan Pasha (the father of Osman and Hussein) some forty years or so ago, the then Azekh villagers were summoned to join the standard of revolt, but having refused to do so, the priest and one of the principal men were taken prisoners by Beder Khan, and afterwards put to death with horrible tortures. If true this would perfectly account for their joining, with alacrity, the standard of the sons when summoned to do so.

The excuse given by most of the prisoners for joining the rebels was that there was no Government at the time able to support them in their resistance to the rebel agents. This statement I believe to be perfectly true.

I have brought this matter to your Excellency's notice, in case your Excellency might wish to take measures with a view to the release of the prisoners.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 235.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 23.*)

(No. 16. Political.)

Diarbekir, May 20, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM thankful to say that, as far as the western portions of the Diarbekir Vilayet are concerned, the worst period of scarcity is over.

When, after much hesitation and many orders and counter-orders, the prohibition to export grain was finally withdrawn, a very large quantity of wheat and barley was at once dispatched to Djezireh and Mosul; prices which had been fabulously high at those places fell considerably but rose here; and I at one time purchased wheat for relief purposes at as high a price as £ T. 6½ the Diarbekir kilog.,* *i.e.*, about sixteen times the average price of wheat here during the past few years. The high prices here had, however, as soon as the roads improved after the melting of the winter snows, attracted large quantities of grain from Malatia, Kharput, and Sivas. About a fortnight ago a sudden large fall in prices occurred at Mosul; this at once caused a proportionate fall here, and the prospect of a good harvest has materially assisted in keeping down prices. Not only the large dealers, but also very small holders of grain which was being kept for family consumption have, now that the prospects for next year are good, thrown into the market all their stocks in order to make money while they can. Prices during the last week have averaged under £ T. 4 the kilog., although there has been a very large export constantly going on to Djezireh and Sert. At the former place there has been an enormous demand for the nomad Kurdish tribes, who at this period of the year leave the pastures in the desert, and crossing the Tigris at Djezireh move up into the hilly pastures of Kurdistan. I believe that during the last month as much as 4,000 quarters of grain have been dispatched hence to Djezireh, a quantity that would keep the Diarbekir bakeries supplied for three months.

This large traffic in grain and the advance of the spring, has given employment to many who during the winter were without money or work. The local authorities have now taken measures to rid themselves of the large stock of refugees from outside who have spent the winter here, and they are sent off in batches to their homes, rations of biscuit being given them sufficient to last the journey. More than 2,000 persons have been sent off during the past fortnight.

I think this movement is premature, and I told the Pasha so; but he replied, with a certain amount of justice, that it was necessary for the health of the town, as the continued presence of the refugees here in the hot weather would in all probability breed an epidemic. I hope no harm may come of it, but I am by no means satisfied that these poor people will find means of subsistence when they return to their homes in the neighbourhood of Djezireh, Mosul, &c.

The 1,200 strangers in the khan, whom I have been providing with soup for the last several months, are, by this exodus, reduced to eighty or ninety, mostly ill and unable to walk: I am endeavouring to arrange for the carriage of these people by raft to the neighbourhood of their homes, and will, as I have done to others, help them with a small donation of money.

* About 150 okes.

Thanks to the liberality of the English people, I have still a considerable amount of money available for relief. I have received through Lady Strangford and Her Majesty's Ambassador authority to draw another 400*l.* since I last wrote on the 3rd May, making in all a total of 1,167*l.* 10*s.*

As I shall not now be obliged to go empty handed, I have altered the programme of my own movements as laid down in the last paragraph of my despatch No. 11, Political, of the 5th May, to the Secretary of State, and intend to go to Erzeroum viâ Sert and Bitlis, and possibly thence on to Van. I have telegraphed to Captain Clayton, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul, to proceed to meet me at Sert viâ "Möks," and when we meet I shall be in a better position to judge where and how the money now available* can be best applied.

Having received several despatches lately from Captain Clayton as to the great scarcity and difficulty of procuring wheat, I summoned Khodja Giabour, who was the principal grain holder here, and who has made a considerable fortune by the present famine; and he has agreed at my request to send to Van, within the next few days, 200 quarters; and as it is extremely probable that money will be lost on the speculation, we have each of us agreed to stand half the loss, if any, on the transaction. The cost price per kilog. delivered at Van will be about £ T. 7, which, although less than existing prices, may very likely be above the rates current one month hence, at which period it may be expected to arrive. Even if loss be incurred, I consider it will be money well spent, as it may be the means of saving many hundreds of lives. If no loss be incurred a great benefit will have been conferred, as other merchants here will not run the risk of sending grain so far, and I shall have all the more money at my disposal for further measures of relief.

I mentioned in my despatch No. 22 of 3rd May that the Vali had received from Constantinople 400*l.* for the poor of the Diarbekir Vilayet, collected by subscription amongst the Turks at Constantinople. This sum was divided as follows:—£ T. 220 were sent to the Government of the Mardin Sandjak, where there is the greatest amount of suffering; £ T. 60 were reserved for the local poor of Diarbekir city; and the remainder was divided into small sums and sent to various suffering districts of this vilayet. The principle of distribution was that it was to be for the poor of all classes and religions alike. Strangers in Diarbekir were excepted from relief.

This principle was so rigorously carried out in Diarbekir city, the small and uninfluential Committees of Jews and Greeks coming in for their share, that the allotment to the Mussulman poor of the city amounted to less than 12*l.*, while the united Armenian Committees received more than double that amount.

When I considered this equitable distribution of relief on the part of the Turks I felt bound to try and induce the Armenian Committee of Constantinople, who had made no contribution whatever to the Mussulman poor, either here or at Erzeroum (*vide* Captain Everett's despatch No. 13, Political, of April 3, where he writes in very strong terms on the subject), and I therefore on the 11th May sent the following telegram to the Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople:—

"Secours Anglais pour les pauvres distribués sans distinction de religion, aussi secours Turc de Constantinople, mais charité Arménienne ignore pauvres Mahométans et Chaldéens; ça peut augmenter antipathies déjà malheureusement existantes."

On the 14th May the Armenian Committee here received a telegram informing them that the Central Committee at Constantinople placed at their disposal £ T. 240, of which half was intended for the Armenian poor and half for Mahommedans, Syrians, Chaldeans, and Greeks.

Early the following morning I received the following message from the Patriarch:—

"Reçu votre télégramme qui porte malheureusement des renseignements erronés. Ce sont les Arméniens qui sont privés des secours étrangers. La Commission Centrale Arménienne, déjà appauvrie et dont les fonds viennent presque de ses coreligionnaires, a déjà envoyé à Diarbékir £ T. 240, dont la moitié aux Arméniens et l'autre moitié aux Mahométans, Syriens, et Chaldéens. De même a Sigherte (Sert) £ T. 300, dont la moitié aux Arméniens et l'autre moitié aux autres communautés. Cette justice a été exercée partout.

"Recevez, &c.

(Signé) "Patriarche Nersès."

* About 500*l.*

To which I replied the same day:—"Je suis très-reconnaissant à votre Béatitude pour l'heureux résultat de mes représentations."

To which I may add that in reply to telegrams I have since addressed to Captains Everett and Clayton, the latter telegraphs, "Armenian Committee has given relief to Moslems;" while the former states on the 18th instant, "The Armenian Committee does not give relief to Moslems."

Prior to this correspondence with the Patriarch I had given £T. 40 to the poor amongst the Gregorian Armenian community of Diarbekir city from the funds at my disposal, and had promised £T. 20 more.

I am to-day telegraphing to Djezireh for five quarters of grain to be distributed there amongst the poor of that place.

There is the greatest possible difficulty here in getting cash against drafts on Constantinople. Fortunately my credit is good, and I am indebted more than 300*l.* to one merchant for grain, &c., supplied to me here. By waiting I may be able to get money at par, whilst by getting my drafts cashed at the present moment I should lose 5 per cent. Captain Clayton telegraphs that the same difficulty exists at Van.

I had proposed starting for Sert in a few days' time; but, in compliance with telegraphic instructions from Sir Henry Layard, I have postponed my departure, pending further instructions from Mr. Goschen, which I hope to receive by the end of this month.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 236.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 125.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 24, 1880.*

CONSUL BILIOTTI reports, in his despatch No. 13 of the 27th ultimo, of which your Excellency has a copy, that the excitement which caused the emigration of the Christians from the districts of Kerassond and Ordou has, for the moment, subsided, but your Excellency should point out to the Porte how important it is to Turkey that the grievances of the populations should be redressed, so as to prevent a renewal of the exodus of Christians from those districts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 237.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 16. Political.)
My Lord, *Diarbekir, May 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to the latter portion of my despatch No. 14, Political, of the 5th May, I have the honour to state that I have had several interviews with Aziz Pasha, the new Vali of Kharput, at present here on special mission, with orders to inquire into the question of the expatriation of the Kurdish Beys and Aghas now in custody at Aleppo.

Aziz Pasha was the bearer of a strongly-worded letter of introduction to myself from Sir Henry Layard, who spoke most highly of the Pasha's former services.

We have freely discussed together, on four separate occasions, the best method of procedure to be adopted, and I am very well pleased with the decisions he has finally arrived at, which he has embodied in a Report to the Porte, from whom he is now awaiting sanction to his proposals.

Roughly speaking, his proposals are as follows:—

1. Those amongst the exiled Beys and Aghas who have been actually sentenced by lawful Tribunals to penal servitude or other punishment, to undergo the punishment to which they have been sentenced.

N.B.—With reference to this point, I would remark that amongst the exiles at Aleppo is Abdullah Bey, of Silivan, who lies under sentence of seven years' penal servitude. One famous criminal, Mastago Kontto, Chief of the Rajkodan tribe, who killed forty-two persons, Kurds, of an enemy's tribe, in one day in cold blood, was condemned to death by the local Tribunal while Abeddin Bey was here. He was sent to prison at Sivas, whence he escaped a few days ago,—an example of the folly of the Turkish Government in not carrying out the sentences of their own Tribunals, a folly which they may some day rue.

N.B.—I have great confidence in Ferid Bey, who is one of the very few good men we have. As he is the principal official in the Judicial Department, local judicial officials will probably not dare to throw obstacles in his way which they might do to any one else. If he selects moderately good men as members of the Commission, their investigations ought to be complete and satisfactory.

2. A Commission is to be appointed, of which Ferid Bey, our new Inspector of Tribunals, is to be President, and its members are to be selected by him from amongst the judicial functionaries of the vilayet. Attached to the Commission is to be an official who assisted Abeddin Bey in his original investigations.

This Commission is to be peripatetic, and is to visit successively the scenes of the crimes attributed to the exiled Beys. It will be furnished with all existing papers and documents, and will summon witnesses and take evidence, all of which will be recorded and verified. It will, in fact, go through all the forms of a regular trial, except that the accused will not be present.

3. The whole of the Chiefs now at Aleppo, except those who have already been condemned by a lawful Tribunal, will be put on their trial at Aleppo before the local Tribunal; the evidence, which will have been previously collected and verified by the aforesaid Commission, to be used against them. The newly-appointed Procureur-Général of the vilayet, who will accompany the travelling Commission, will also act as Public Prosecutor at Aleppo.

N.B.—Aziz Pasha assures me that the new Ottoman law provides and allows, in certain cases, for the trial of prisoners to take place in the absence of the witnesses, *i.e.*, the presence of the prisoner and cross-examination by him of the witnesses is not necessary.

In ordinary cases this would not be in accordance with English notions of justice, but the present is an extraordinary occasion, and there is not the slightest doubt that if, in the case of many of the more influential of the Aghas, they were recalled to Diarbekir or to their own country to take their trial there, they would so intimidate the witnesses by means of menaces which they would have both the power and will to carry out, that hardly any one would dare to appear against them. Even supposing ample evidence to be given against them, the local influence possessed by these Beys (as has occurred lately in similar cases at Erzeroum) would prevent justice being meted out to them.

Assuming the ambulating Commission to have done its duty, the result of the final trial would be to place the final decision as regards those guilty of serious crimes in the hands of the President of the Criminal Court of Appeal at Aleppo—the Cadi presumably. As far as I can learn, that gentleman's reputation does not stand as high as it might, and in view of the great importance of these cases, and the large sums of money that will be available as bribes, I think it would be most desirable that the Porte should be invited either to replace temporarily or permanently the existing Judge by some one of known and proved integrity, or to appoint a Special Commission to take these special cases. I believe the wish of the Porte, however, in reopening this question of the Beys, is to have everything done *en règle* and according to law, and on this account there would probably be objections to the appointment of a Special Tribunal.

I consider Aleppo a good selection as the place of trial, as the prisoners are all already there, and there need be no further removals until final sentence be pronounced.

The Kurdistan Beys have not that local influence in Aleppo which in Diarbekir would of itself almost inevitably bring about a miscarriage of justice.

I have addressed Mr. Henderson, Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo, and requested that gentleman to inform Her Majesty's Ambassador as to the character of the Cadi at Aleppo, and as to whether there is a probability of justice being meted out to the exiled Beys in case they should be put upon their trial at Aleppo. Should Mr. Henderson's Report be unfavourable, it is most desirable that some action be taken with a view to securing the services of an upright man as Chief Judge.

4. Those who are sentenced by the Aleppo Tribunal to heavy punishments to have such punishments at once carried out.

5. Those who are only condemned to light punishment, or who are acquitted of crime, are to be divided into two classes by the aforesaid Commission, in consultation with the Government of the vilayet.

(*a.*) Those men of great local influence whom, for reasons of State, it is not desirable should be permitted to return to their country. These are to be exiled by Imperial order to such place as the Sultan may direct, suitable provision to be made for them in the way of lands or money.

(*b.*) Men of great local influence whom the Commission, in accord with the Government of the vilayet, do not consider it necessary to expatriate, and men of small or no local influence. These will be permitted to return unmolested to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 238.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 50.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 17, 1880.*

I HAVE had the opportunity, in a conversation with Abeddin Pasha, to hear some of his views on the Armenian question. Your Lordship is aware that as Governor-General of Sivas his Excellency showed both energy and capacity. He entirely recognized the necessity of reforms, the imperfection of the police force, and the existence of many administrative abuses, and he sketched to me some of the changes which he would himself recommend to the Council of Ministers. Amongst them is the subdivision of the caza into "communes," as he called them, consisting of seven or eight villages grouped together with the idea of bringing together villages of one religion as far as possible. Where Armenians preponderate he would have a Christian Mudir elected by the population, and instead of the police ("zaptichs") being under the Governor-General and sent into the villages where they were strangers, he would let the Mudir have a small number of police for the service of the commune raised among the inhabitants of the grouped villages themselves. He attached great importance to this point. I asked him whether the Mudir was to be a kind of "Maire;" he replied "He is to have the municipal functions of the Maire, but he would also have many of the functions of a Sous-Préfet."

The key to Abeddin's administrative plan seemed to me to be to avoid Christians ruling over Mussulmans and Mussulmans over Christians by great subdivision of the administrative limit, and to prevent police abuses and create a greater feeling in favour of order by placing the duty of keeping order among the interested villagers themselves.

He said that objections would probably be made to Christian Mudirs, but that was all folly. There was no danger in it whatever.

He was also disposed to avail himself of English officers for gendarmerie inspection, and told me he was anxious to send an officer at once to the district of Van. This is not without importance, as your Lordship is aware that steps had been taken by Osman Pasha with a view to forcing these English officers out of the service. He spoke also of the development of educational facilities.

With regard to the administration of justice, he should propose a Court of Assize for each vilayet composed of two Christians and two Mussulmans, who would periodically go round the local Courts to revise their Judgments, to hear appeals, and generally to exercise a supervision.

I will not trouble your Lordship at this stage with any further details, especially as Abeddin Pasha spoke very hurriedly, but I have thought it worth while to give you the above indication of the direction in which Abeddin Pasha is likely to work.

Both from what I have heard from Colonel Wilson, Her Majesty's Consul-General for Anatolia, and from the impression so far conveyed to me by the above conversation, I believe Abeddin Pasha, in the matter of administrative reform in Asia, to be sincere, though he may not be prepared for large organic changes.

I think I may add, however, that he is strongly disposed in favour of the view of the Governors-General having more independence, and of the financial arrangements being more in favour of the province than is at present the case. But on this he was not explicit. What he was strong upon was the punctual payment of the police and the judicial functionaries: "Without such punctuality the gravest abuses must be expected."

Immediately after my conversation with Abeddin Pasha I was visited by the Armenian Patriarch, who explained to me his views as to what reforms in Armenia would alone give any hope of improvement. The formation of a large province under a Christian Governor-General, with a five years' appointment, and guaranteed either by Europe or England, would alone meet the case. His Beatitude was quite decided on the point that, without some form of foreign protection, no permanent good could be done.

I gathered from His Beatitude that he contended that the Christian population outnumbered the Mussulmans in most of the territory which he proposes to see united in one large vilayet, but that he arrives at this conclusion by leaving out the Kurds, who are in the province for six months only.

The difficulty of arriving at any solution of this grave and pressing question, which may at once be satisfactory and practicable, is so very great, that I hesitate to make any comments of my own in this despatch, either on what Abeddin Pasha may possibly propose or what the representatives of the Armenians may claim as a minimum; but your Lordship may rely on my giving the subject my most earnest attention, and I shall soon have to address your Lordship again with regard to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 239.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 51. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 17, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 50 of this day, I think it right to furnish a few more confidential details relative to my conversation with Abeddin Pasha. He said some things which he hoped would not be published. He denounced the present system of the police ("zaptichs") in strong language. They descended, he said, on villages, and immediately quartered themselves in the best houses. They consumed provisions and fed their horses and made no payment, and to the villagers, who were very poor, this was very intolerable. If the villagers complained they were beaten, and the zaptichs would denounce them falsely to the konak. The zaptichs were all strangers to the villages and indifferent to keeping order.

I asked his Excellency whether he would be able to carry his colleagues with him. He said he hoped so, but that there was little provincial administrative experience in the Council. I then asked whether there were not ex-Governor-Generals amongst them. He said "Yes, but of the times when the Governor-General sate in his room all day smoking chibouques." He proceeded to relate how, instead of acting, the Council of Ministers would do nothing but talk. "Every member must have his word."

Your Lordship will gather from these small traits what I meant when I called Abeddin Pasha unconventional. He gives the impression of a vigorous "outsider" suddenly thrown among men of a different stamp, which is in fact the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 240.

Vice-Consul Billiotti to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 28.*)

(No. 16. Political.)

Trebizond, June 12, 1880.

My Lord,

SIRRI PASHA having suspended from his functions the Kaimakam of Kerassond (as reported in my despatch No. 13 of the 27th ultimo), gave to his successor, Mehmed Ali Effendi, special instructions and full powers to carry them out. On his arrival at Kerassond he proceeded at once to the village of Boulandjak, where a Russian sailing-vessel was at anchor ready to embark fifty-eight Greek families whom he induced to desist from their project to emigrate to Russia.

Having subsequently inquired as to the motives of the emigration, and formally promised to give satisfaction, the populations stated them to be oppressive on the part of the Beys and Agas, extortion on that of Government officials, and the burden of maintaining and otherwise providing for the Laz immigrants, against whom, however, they do not seem to have formulated very strong complaints.

Mehmed Ali Effendi succeeded to obtain for 500 or 600 Christian families that were ready to emigrate to Russia, the restitution of their property which they had sold for nothing, or an indemnity of some sort, and to induce them to resume their agricultural pursuits which they had completely abandoned since a few months. He arrested twelve Beys and Agas, and, lastly, turned his attention to disarming the Lazes, as well as the natives.

The foregoing information, which was communicated to me by Sirri Pasha, is fully confirmed by the Austrian Consular Agent of Kerassond in a Report to his Superintending Consul here, as well as by a trustworthy individual who has just arrived from that town.

So far, the greatest praise is due to Sirri Pasha for the instructions he issued, and to Mehmed Ali Effendi for the manner in which he carried them out. But what has hitherto been done, not only will be of no avail, but will, on the contrary, turn against the peasants, should the culpable Beys and Agas be not punished according to their deserts.

Not only is the trial of the accused parties beyond the power of Sirri Pasha, but judging from precedents, he may even be rebuked for their apprehension by the judicial authorities.

I do not know as yet whether Mehmed Ali Effendi has been able to apprehend the really culpable Beys and Agas, who seem to be so powerful as to defy the very authority of the Government. But if he had not succeeded in so doing, or if the Courts of Justice did not display the same good-will and energy as the administrative authorities, the retaliation which is sure to follow the release of the Beys and Agas will so increase the evil of which the populations complain, that they will bitterly regret to have renounced their project to emigrate to Russia.

That which now takes the place in the district of Kerassond shows that the populations of Anatolia are so submissive as to be very easily governed, and that the distribution of elementary justice would be sufficient to keep them quiet.

It is to be hoped that the endeavours of Sirri Pasha to remedy, as far as possible, the present situation in some of the districts in this province, will find due support at Constantinople, and that the work which he has so happily initiated will not be allowed to remain unfinished.

The hundreds of Christian families intending to emigrate to Russia from the districts of Ordoo and Ooniah, have likewise been induced to renounce their project, but, owing to some particular circumstance, the restitution of their movable property could not take place. It would seem, however, that they received a partial compensation, and that they have also set to sowing their lands. The Lazes, who live in these districts, if not disarmed have been compelled to keep their arms at home; but, to my knowledge, no accused Beys or Agas have been arrested.

It may be that Sirri Pasha, before committing himself further, wishes to see how the Judicial Courts will deal with those apprehended in the district of Kerassond.

I feel it is incumbent on me to give here such details as I have been able to collect with regard to the grievances of the peasants towards the Beys and Agas.

Their forefathers were nominally owners of so extensive tracts of land that part of them only could be cultivated by the peasants who lived on them in the position of serfs.

As the rural populations increased, they brought under culture lands which up to that time had remained in fallow, and as by so doing they acquired certain rights of ownership; the Beys, in order to maintain their pretensions on the lands, exacted from

the peasants a small annual rent in money. The produce of these plots of land was halved between Lords and tenants, but the whole of the tithe was paid out of the share of the latter.

The tenants had, besides, to till and sow the proper lands of the Lords, the produce of which was to their exclusive benefit. They had, moreover, to submit to all other compulsory labour devolving on serfs, and it is reckoned that ten months in the year were taken up by service to the Beys and Agas, only two months remaining to themselves to attend to their own agricultural pursuits.

The annual rent in money gradually increased in proportion with the extent of the lands brought under cultivation, so that at present the peasants pay nearly ten times the original amount of rental.

However, as, according to the Turkish Legislature, lands allowed to remain unproductive for a number of years, revert to the State, and, with certain restrictions, become the property of those who have tilled them, the peasants tried at different times to avail themselves of the favourable disposition of the existing laws. But they were always defeated in their endeavours by the more influential action of the Beys, who, in some cases, even managed to have issued in their name the title-deeds for the newly cultivated lands, with the hard earned money which the too confiding peasants had intrusted to them for the purpose of obtaining the same title-deeds for themselves (the peasants).

It would seem that a few years since the Porte, to whose notice was brought this state of things, decided in favour of the rural classes, but, owing to the influence of the Beys and Agas, the question was allowed to drop, and the situation continues to be the same.

Not only this, but the latter, or their relatives, being the members of the local Medjlisses, are the real rulers of the district, as the Sub-Governors, if they want to kee their posts, must side with the Lords. The consequence is that the Beys and Agas oppress the populations at their will, and continue to treat them, it would seem, as during the worse of feudal times; while the Government officials on their side, availing themselves of the opportunity, resort to extortions of all kinds to improve their pecuniary condition during the uncertain time of their tenure of office.

The agricultural classes are naturally most anxious to shake off the yoke under which they have hitherto been kept. The Porte is willing to sell its rights on the lands in question to the peasants; and the Beys and Agas also seem inclined to do the same, but the price put on the property appears to be unreasonably high. Besides, the intended purchasers are not certain that the title-deeds to be issued to them will present sufficient security against future contestations, or revendications on the part of the Government, and of the Beys and Agas, or of their descendants.

The price usually paid to the Government by those who bring fallow lands under cultivation being always very low, and the Beys having, it would seem, in most cases no other title-deeds but those which they have surreptitiously obtained since the peasants have acquired on the lands certain rights of property under the existing laws, the question might be settled to the great advantage of the rural population.

However this may be, it presents sufficient importance to attract more attention than has hitherto been bestowed on it by the Porte; but the real state of things can only be ascertained by a searching investigation.

In the meantime the agriculturors are continually pestered for the payment of arrears due to the Government, and have been saddled with a fresh heavy burden arising out of the Laz immigration.

Their previous, by no means enviable, position will be aggravated by the consequences of their late intention to emigrate to Russia. It is true that they have lately resumed their agricultural pursuits, and that they have obtained restitution of property or indemnification; but as the latter is far from complete, and as, owing to the advanced season, the coming crop cannot be very successful, they will be subject, under these two heads, to very severe loss.

Furthermore, it would seem that the Commissioners for the Laz immigration, being unable to cope with the rich landlords, or having an interest to favour them, but wishing at the same time to gain credit with the Porte in the hope to obtain for themselves promotion or honorary distinction, have seized as convenient for the new colonists property held under regular title-deeds by poor people who have managed, at immense sacrifice, to become landowners, while they left intact the irregularly acquired property of the Lords.

I was cited as an example to the contrary that a certain Bey at Fatza had dispossessed himself of a large tract of land in favour of the expected immigrants. However, I was informed on inquiry that the grant was real, but that the land in question was since some

years in contestation between the said Bey and the population. If this be true, the liberality of the Bey may be, after all, but an unwilling gift on the part of his opponents.

Under these circumstances the arrival of fresh immigrants would be the death blow of the agricultural classes in some districts of this province.

The Porte has lately issued a Circular stating that immigrants should not be allowed to settle in large bodies in any part of the vilayets, but should be located by parties of a few families in each village. But this Circular relates to immigrants in general, and not to Lazes in particular.

I understand that hundreds of families of the latter are ready for embarkation at Batoum, and that the Porte is about to send steamers for their conveyance to Turkey, but whether any will be landed in this province is as yet uncertain.

Sirri Pasha has himself pointed out to the Porte the inconvenience of admitting a number of Laz immigrants in this vilayet. Having received no answer to this communication, he takes for granted that his observations have been taken into consideration, and he intends to refuse their being landed here; but he may at the last moment receive instructions which will leave him no option.

With regard to official extortion, I can only say that it is beyond all hope to see it uprooted so long as is maintained the present system of underpay, of immunity from punishment, or from permanent dismissal from the public service, and of probable promotion for most flagrant misconduct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 241.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 57.) *Constantinople, June 18, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the précis of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bagdad, reporting numerous risings among the Arab tribes in Mesopotamia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 241.

Précis of Consul-General Miles' Despatch No. 42 of May 26, 1880.

DISTURBANCES are reported among the Montefik Arabs in the Vilayet of Basreh. The Arab tribes in Southern Mesopotamia may be said to be in open rebellion against the Government, and in many parts at war with each other. At the end of April his Excellency Ziabit Pasha, Vali of Basreh, proceeded to Nasariyeh to restore order, and his position there appears very critical. He is said to be surrounded by the insurgents. Reinforcements have been sent to endeavour to extricate him. Negotiation will be first resorted to for this purpose. At Hindiyeh and Dagharch, on the Euphrates, the Arabs have revolted, and troops have been sent against them. At Hamarah, on the Tigris, the state of affairs is similar. The Arabs have taken to plundering, and stopped the navigation of the river by native boats. Between Bagdad and Basreh they have carried off the telegraph wire, and destroyed the poles. In the North the Shammar Arabs are in a similar state of disaffection.

No. 242.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 58.) *Therapia, June 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir H. Layard's despatches to Lord Salisbury Nos. 160 and 189 of the 4th and 11th February last, inclosing copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van relative to the deplorable state of affairs in the district of Bach-Kalé, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship an extract from a Report from

the Governor-General of Van on this subject, which has been communicated to me by the Porte. I have sent a copy of this Report to Captain Clayton.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 242.

Extract from a Report from the Governor-General of Van, dated April 2 (v.s.).

Sublime Porte, le 16 Juin, 1880.

LES autorités locales, d'ordre de la Sublime Porte, se sont appliquées sans relâche à venir en aide aux malheureux affamés et à atténuer autant qu'il était en leur pouvoir les souffrances produites par le terrible fléau qui sévit dans ces contrées. Ainsi plusieurs milliers de kilés de céréales ont été distribués à différentes reprises aux plus nécessiteux; en outre, la quantité nécessaire de blé pour l'ensemencement leur a été assurée. Nonobstant cela, un certain nombre de paysans ont dû, il est vrai, chercher refuge l'automne dernier dans les contrées avoisinantes afin d'assurer à eux et à leurs familles des moyens de subsistance, mais la preuve que leur absence est toute temporaire et ne provient pas de l'état politique du pays, c'est qu'ils ont presque tous laissé chez leurs parents et voisins leurs biens et leurs troupeaux pour venir les reprendre au printemps.

Les nommés Cheikh Hamid, Cheikh Hassan, Khalifa Hadji Moustapha, et Cheikh Mehemed Emin sont des Notables de Bach-Kalé. Le Gouverneur de ce district rapporte que depuis son arrivée aucune plainte n'a été déposée par qui que ce soit contre eux; on ne sait par conséquent quels sont les chefs d'accusation portés à leur charge.

En ce qui concerne Hadji Moustapha Effendi, Président de la Cour Criminelle, certaines plaintes avaient été portées contre sa gestion, et bien que ces plaintes n'aient pu être légalement confirmées, Moustapha Effendi a été néanmoins relevé de ses fonctions et transféré à une autre place.

L'assertion d'après laquelle huit Arméniennes auraient été converties par force à l'Islamisme n'est pas exacte. Il y a eu des femmes Chrétiennes qui par dépit pour leurs parents ou maris ont témoigné le désir d'embrasser l'Islamisme, mais les enquêtes faites par leurs autorités spirituelles ayant démontré les causes déterminantes de ces demandes de changement de foi et ces mêmes femmes ayant ensuite déclaré vouloir rester dans la religion de leurs pères, toutes ont été restituées à leurs parents.

A Aghbak une jeune femme qui se trouvait depuis longtemps en relations intimes avec un habitant du village Parse, l'avait suivi en Perse. L'autorité a réussi à faire ramener cette femme qui, ayant déclaré n'avoir pas changé de religion, a été remise entre les mains de ses parents. Ainsi il n'y a eu aucune conversions forcée. L'autorité veille toujours à la liberté de conscience.

Hassan Pacha proteste au nom des autorités de Bach-Kalé contre l'imputation d'avoir excité les Kurdes à commettre des déprédations au préjudice des villages Nestoriens. L'autorité a poursuivi avec énergie les auteurs des déprédations et du pillage commis l'année passée par une bande organisée en Perse dans le village Nestorien Diri (district de Guevar), quatorze individus appartenant à cette bande ont pu être ainsi arrêtés et le montant du prix de leurs troupeaux, de leurs biens, a servi à l'indemnisation de leurs victimes.

Enfin, grâce aux mesures adoptées par les autorités locales pour réformer les mœurs des Kurdes et grâce aussi à l'arrestation des Chefs de bandes et des perturbateurs de l'ordre public, la sécurité et la tranquillité règnent à l'heure qu'il est dans le district de Bach-Kalé.

No. 243.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received June 29.*)

(No. 60.)

My Lord, *Therapia, June 20, 1880.*

WITH reference to Sir Henry Layard's despatch No. 377 of the 1st April last, I have the honour to inclose copy of a Report from Major Trotter respecting the alleged sufferings of the Armenians in the districts of Modkan (Mosh) and Tchubukchoor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 243.

Major Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 23.)
Diarbékir, May 13, 1880.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency, in despatch No. 5 of 1st April, inclosed, for such remarks as I might wish to make on it, a copy of a letter received from the Armenian Patriarch ($\frac{18}{30}$th March, 1880), calling your Excellency's attention to the alleged sufferings of the Armenians in the districts of Modkan (Mosh) and Tchabakchoor.

There can be no doubt that the two provinces named are amongst the worst governed by the eastern provinces of Turkey, and it is probably perfectly true that in Modkan (and also in the neighbouring district of Sasun) "les biens, l'honneur, et la vie des Chrétiens du district sont à la merci des Kurdes; les opprimés n'osent pas même protester pour peur d'attirer la vengeance de leurs oppresseurs."

At the same time, the present state of the country is doubtless far better than it was during and immediately after the war.

At that time there was the most complete anarchy in the Modkan district; the Kurds did just whatever they pleased without giving the Government a thought, and it was then that many Armenian churches were plundered. It is difficult to suppose, however, that thirty-five churches can have been pillaged in twenty-five villages. Modkan has always been considered as an "assi," or rebellious district; *i.e.*, the inhabitants, the Kurdish portion of them at all events, pay no verghi, do not contribute their quota to the army, and set the authorities generally at defiance. Last summer troops were sent against them; a certain amount of arrears of taxes were collected, and since then the inhabitants have, I believe, been fairly quiet. Had any gross outrages been latterly committed I should doubtless have heard of them. Modkan is a little-known district, and is not shown in Kiepert's map; it lies due south of Musch and due west of Bitlis, and, as far as I am aware, has never been visited by a European.

Tchabakchoor, a district lying north of the Moorad Su, on the direct road between Diarbekir and Erzeroum, is also "assi." I have passed through this district twice, and if your Excellency will kindly refer to pages 14 and 15 of Blue Book, Turkey No. 10 (1879), a fair idea of the then state of the country may be formed.

A further reference to page 37 will show that in May 1879 a considerable improvement had taken place.

As far as I can make out from further inquiries I have recently made here, the whole of the special acts of violence complained of occurred at periods varying from two to four or five years ago. The country is at present comparatively quiet, and I do not think there is any truth whatever in the statement that there exists there a terrible famine. The harvest last year in Tchabakchoor was a remarkably good one.

Since receipt of your Excellency's despatch now under reply, I have had brought to my notice a fresh case of crime in Tchabakchoor. A Kurd carried off to his own village a Christian married woman. As, however, the woman had with her a considerable quantity of jewels and cash, it is to be presumed that she was not an unconsenting party. The husband has gone to Bitlis, under which Government the Tchabakchoor Mudirlik has now been placed, to endeavour to obtain an order for the restitution of his wife and of his property, and I have sent a telegraph to the Vali begging him to see that justice be done.

The Government of this country is, as your Excellency is aware, extremely feeble; in the large towns a certain amount of order is kept, and I must admit that in the city of Diarbekir itself we have been this year, in spite of most trying times, extremely quiet. But the greater the distance from head-quarters the greater the insecurity for life and property, and in many of the remote hilly districts, such as Tchabakchoor, Modkan, Sasun, parts of the Deyrsim district south of Erzinjan, parts of Malatia, parts of the mountainous country near Mardin, the authority of the Government is but a shadow, and the local Beys and Aghas can do just whatever they please. In Sasun I believe the position of the Christian Rayahs to be little better than slaves.

There will be no remedy for this state of things unless a strong and good Government be introduced.

A temporary method of quieting the country has been found in the vilayet by Abeddin Pasha, who, when he was here last year as Imperial Commissioner, laid his hands on those of the principal offending Beys and Aghas, who had obeyed his summons to Diarbekir, and, with the approval of the Vali and the sanction of the Porte, sentenced the whole party to unlimited exile in Albania. Since their departure matters have greatly improved, but unfortunately the Porte repented of its decision and stopped the exiles at

Aleppo, and it is very probable that many of them will be permitted to return to make the state of the country worse than at any previous period. Aziz Pasha, the new Governor of Kharput, arrived here yesterday for the special purpose of inquiring into the matter of the guilt or innocence of the exiled Chiefs.

If Aziz Pasha be like other Pashas, there can be little doubt as to what the result will be. Of the more than 100 exiled Aghas, there is probably not one who would not pay a bribe of 100*l.* to be allowed to return to his country, and there are amongst the number those who could and would pay 1,000*l.* for a like privilege. Such sum would of course be wrung from the unfortunate villagers, who would become once more entirely at the mercy of their powerful foes.

I have the honour to inclose, for your Excellency's information, copy of a despatch No. 14, Political, of the 5th May, lately written to the Secretary of State in reply to inquiries on the subject of the ill-treatment of Syrian Jacobites in this vilayet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 244.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 61.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June* 21, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a further despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Erzeroum relative to the robbery of English merchandise near Kizildir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 244.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.

(No. 5. Commercial.)
Sir, *Erzeroum, June* 3, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose further correspondence relative to the English merchandise, the property of Hildebrand Stevens, merchant of Tabreez, stolen in the month of October 1879 in the neighbourhood of Kizildir. In previous correspondence, refer to my despatch No. 1, Commercial, 1879.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 244.

Mustafa Pasha to Captain Everett.

(Translation.)
Excellency, *May* 9, 1880 (n.s.).

ON the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 1st January, 1880, relative to the loss on the Bayazid road of some merchandise belonging to Hildebrand Stevens, British subject, an Ilam was made by the Procureur-Général of the vilayet and by the Tesinaff Medjliss. The Assistant Procureur-Général at Bayazid has informed us that the seventeen packages were robbed from the caravan by the robbers whose names are herewith mentioned, of which fact there is no doubt.

But since without the assistance of the Persian Government, it is very difficult for the authorities of Bayazid to recover the merchandise or apprehend the robbers. We referred the matter to the Persian Consul, who has replied that he will look to it.

(Signed) MUSTAFA.

Inclosure 3 in No. 244.

Captain Everett to the Persian Consul at Erzeroum.

(Translation.) *British Consulate, May* 25, 1880.

WITH reference to the two packages of merchandise belonging to Hildebrand Stevens, British subject, which were stolen from the Persian caravan in the month of October 1879, in the neighbourhood of Kizildir, I have received information from the Government of this place

that the robbers whose names I now inclose are Persians, and that without the assistance of the Persian Government the authorities at Bayazid are unable either to recover the merchandise or apprehend the robbers. I also understand that the Government has already written to you on this subject: I take the opportunity therefore to add my request to his, and shall be exceedingly obliged if you will do all in your power to aid the Turkish Government in the recovery of the merchandise and the punishment of the offenders.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 244.

The Persian Consul at Erzeroum to Captain Everett.

(Translation.)

Persian Consulate, May $\frac{16}{28}$, 1880.

Excellency,

WE received your Excellency's letter of the 26th May, 1880, regarding the lost merchandise of Hildebrand Stevens, British subject, in the month of October 1879, near Kizildir, and also the names of the robbers. After the robbery occurred, the Persian Consulate made the most strict inquiries upon the matter. The Government here was then communicated with, and receiving the reply, we applied to the Hakumet of Maku, who informed us that, after a close and searching examination, no doubt was left that the robbers were Mirza Agha, of the village of Karakend, his brother Yuniss, together with their companions and accomplices, all subjects of the Sandjak of Bayazid. We have acquainted the Government here with the result of this examination, but up to the present time the merchandise has not been recovered, and no further action whatever has been taken by it in the matter.

In fact, the affirmation that the Hakumet of Bayazid makes, declaring itself unable either to recover the merchandise or to apprehend the robbers, is only an excuse to exempt the Government here from further trouble in the matter. We have said as much to the Government here in a letter dated the 20th April (o. s.), and in compliance with your Excellency's wishes we take the present opportunity of repeating them to you.

I have, &c.

No. 245.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 64.)

Therapia, June 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van relative to the state of affairs at Bach-Kalé Arjesh, El Jivas, and other parts of the vilayet. As Captain Clayton's Reports by no means bear out the favourable views taken by the Vali of Van, as reported in my despatch No. 58 of yesterday's date, I have considered it right to address a further representation to the Porte, urging the necessity of putting a stop to the oppressive acts of the Kurds.

I also inclose a letter addressed to Sir M. Montefiore by the Jews of Bach-Kalé, which Captain Clayton has sent me, and which I venture to request may be forwarded to its destination.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 245.

Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 6. Commercial.)

Van, May 7, 1880.

Sir,

I AM glad to say that the Reform Commissioners informed me yesterday that orders had been received for 20,000 Constantinople kilés of grain to be sent here from Mush. This, with what is being done by charity, ought, I think, to enable the worst to be tided over. Good rain has fallen, and the prospects for the next harvest are good wherever the sowing has taken place. In Bashkala, however, this has not taken place, and it has not been possible to get seed-corn there in time for spring sowing. Therefore, in that neighbourhood the prospects are still somewhat doubtful. I am informed, however, that the Armenian Committee at Constantinople has bought a considerable quantity of millet at Erzinjan, which is to be sent here. This will be a great benefit, as millet can be sown up to the middle of June, and is very productive.

I think it right to say that the Armenian Charitable Committee here have been working extremely well, and the measures taken by them seem to me to be very judicious. I especially approve of the exertions they are now making to send the refugees who have come into the town from the country back to their homes with sufficient supplies to keep them, and also of their intention, if their funds permit, to supply oxen to take the place of those that have died, so that agriculture may be carried on.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 245.

Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 7. Commercial.)

Van, May 12, 1880.

Sir,

I REGRET to say that, since I wrote my despatch on the 7th instant, the Vali of Bitlis has again refused to allow the corn to be sent here from Mush. He is playing fast and loose, one day promising to send the corn and the next day refusing. His object I cannot understand, as I do not believe there is any danger of his running short. The matter is most serious, as the Government magazines in the Van Vilayet are nearly exhausted, and the Government is obliged to suspend its issues to the poor of Van, and to reduce to a small proportion the supplies sent into the country.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 3 in No. 245.

Vice-Consul Clayton to Major Trotter.

(No. 17. Political.)

Van, May 12, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE a translation of a letter which has been addressed to me by the Catholicos of Akhtamar, calling attention to the danger which threatens the peaceable inhabitants from the Kurds, especially those who were arrested by Abeddin Pasha and have now been released. He also gives the names of many of those most to be feared.

I believe that the danger he speaks of is a very real one. From all sides reports reach me daily of fresh robberies and outrages on the part of the Kurds. When the Imperial Commissioners and Samih Pasha first came here the Kurds were much alarmed, thinking that their crimes would be punished and their robberies prevented. But they have found that they have not been interfered with at all, and are therefore encouraged to believe that they may do anything they please with impunity, and with this encouragement, and urged, moreover, by distress, the famine pressing, if anything, harder on them than on the Christians by reason of their unthrifty habits and custom of relying for their livelihood not on work but on plunder, I am convinced that there is great risk of large districts being absolutely laid waste.

Two or three days ago the entire population of three villages in the neighbourhood of Bashkala arrived here, being unable to remain at home on account of the depredations of the Kurds, especially the men of Ali Khan.

A caravan coming from Persia has been robbed on the road from Kotour. Trustworthy information as to the facts of this occurrence are not yet attainable. The current report is that twenty-five Persians were killed, and 500 camels with their loads carried off, but Samih Pasha told me that an attack was not made on the caravan, but that it had rested for the night at a Kurdish village, the inhabitants of which had committed a robbery on the caravan during the night, but that there had been no combat and no one was killed. I believe, however, the affair to have been much more serious, especially as a strong detachment of troops was sent off the morning after the news arrived, which would not have been necessary if there had been merely a night robbery in a village.

I have tried to get the authorities to take some steps to render the country more secure, and the result has been that directions have been given for two battalions to be sent to various points near the Persian frontier to restrain the raids of the men of Ali Khan and Derbay Agha. I hope this decision will be loyally carried out. But this will only prevent a small part of the evil, for the danger exists all over the country where Kurds are found.

A large deputation has been with me this morning from Arjesh and El Jinas, complaining of the conduct of the Kurds in that region. Although the villagers in those parts have plenty of corn they are almost reduced to famine, for they dare not send their corn to the mills to be ground, lest it should be carried off by the Kurds. The latter also break into the houses and plunder, and are pasturing their flocks on the young corn. The deputation say their life is unbearable, and if the destruction of the young corn is not prevented there will be no harvest this year: a most serious matter, as these districts are the granary of this region. I shall of course do what I can to get the Government to take the necessary measures, but I am obliged to confess that I fear they have not the means to do what is required even if they had the will.

An insufficient number of troops are available to keep the Kurds in order, and, unfortunately, the troops are only a degree better than the Kurds themselves. The Government is bankrupt, and cannot pay or feed its troops in a proper manner, so they have to live on the peasantry to a large extent, and care not what oppressions they inflict on the Christians. I have also a profound distrust of the real desire of the Turkish authorities to protect the Christians, or to improve their condition. On the whole, regarding the temper of the Turks, the disposition of the troops and the pecuniary inability of the Government to provide and support in a proper manner the force necessary to ensure security to the country, I am forced to the conclusion, that in addition to the necessary reforms in administration, which must, I think, be carried out by European officials, a proportion of European troops is necessary, at all events as a temporary measure. If a gendarmerie, as proposed, had been organized, it would be different, but there is no prospect of such being the case within any reasonable time, and I am strongly persuaded that if the present state of things lasts six months longer, the Christian population will be either destroyed or driven out over a large extent of this country. The force of properly organized troops required to keep the Kurds in order would not be large, as the Kurds are not very courageous, and would soon give in if they saw an authority in earnest in its desire to subdue them, and in possession of the means of doing so. It is only the impunity that they have enjoyed and the feebleness of the Turkish Government that has brought about the present anarchy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure 4 in No. 245.

Katholicos of Akhtamar to Vice-Consul Clayton.

(Translation.) *Armenian Bishop's House, Van, May 9, 1880.*

I, HATCHADOOR, servant of Jesus Christ, and Katholicos of Armenians, of the Great House of Akhtamar, by the grace of God, greeting and abundant heavenly blessing to Captain Clayton, our beloved friend, the Vice-Consul of the powerful English Government at Van.

It is well known how the rapacious and barbarous Kurds have plundered and destroyed this country, and that last year the Turkish Government was advised by the great Christian Powers to send Commissioners to Armenia in order to save the poor and defenceless Christians from the jaws of their cruel oppressors, and to ameliorate their painful condition. Thus Abeddin Pasha and Munus Effendi have been sent to Diarbekir and Sert, where we have sent as our representative the Archbishop Hagop, one of the members of our holy congregation, having been ordered by the Porte and the Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople to do so.

By the efforts of the Imperial Commissioners two of the barbarous Kurdish Chiefs, Avdi and Hamid, of Shargerd, were arrested and carried to Diarbekir, but their brothers and relatives escaped, and could not be arrested, though troops were sent after them. The names of these are: Muhamed, Khoorshid, Khalit, and Telli, from Shargerd.; Beshir, Adé, Amar, and Abdurrahman, from the village of Khoras, in Hizan; Hasham, Rustem, Youssouf, and Aziz, from Karason; Taris, Fakhi, Khalil, Amar, Murad, and Suleiman, from Gulbeg; Devrish, Khalit, Abdi, and Telli, from Eroun.

Sheikh Hamzé, the brother of the notorious Sheikh Jehleddin, was also arrested and imprisoned in Sert. These Kurds have plundered seven Armenian monasteries and many churches, and destroyed several villages. Other Kurdish Chiefs, namely, Hajji Mhé and Muhmud Aglin, of the Ashiret Malokesh; Halid and Said, from Thoop, and Hassan and Hussein, the sons of Osman Agha, from Burwar, have altogether escaped. Now the brothers and relatives of those who were imprisoned, or have succeeded in making their escape, being extremely angry with the Armenians, are beginning to take vengeance on them, destroying their lives and property, and plundering their villages. Many thousand Christians of Shargerd were thus obliged to emigrate, and continue to do so.

The most vexatious thing is now, that these criminal Chiefs having been released, we don't know how, have returned home in triumph like furious and untameable beasts, and thrown themselves with feelings of terrible vengeance on the defenceless Christians, whom they now oppress, kill, and plunder, without mercy and compassion; as some days ago the Kurds of the villages of Gish and Goudars, inspired by their headmen, Muhamed, Abdi, and Khoorshid, attacked Kodis, an Armenian village of Shargerd, killed two persons, Asho, and Goros, his brother, and wounded severely Haroutioun and Mirza, who are, perhaps, already dead too. Besides, the Kurds of the Ashirets, Aligan, and Duder, boldly and furiously continue to oppress the Christians in every direction, especially plundering the people of Nanran, Shargerd, Hizan, Algis, Gargar, Garjgan, Guvash, Mogs, and other districts. Yes, these rapacious Kurds come every year like the swarms of grasshoppers into the neighbourhood of Van, to plunder and to destroy the whole country. All these barbarians belong now to the Vilayet of Bitlis; and Archbishop Hagop, of Sert, on his journey, had made a detailed report of their crimes and misdeeds to the Governor of that province, but in vain. We therefore call your high attention to this grave affair, because, unless these wild, rapacious, and cruel Kurds are by your influence and philanthropic efforts arrested and severely punished, the Christian population of the country cannot possibly keep its ground this year, being already deprived by the Kurds of their daily bread and property, and now there is great danger they will be massacred in masses, as there is no security in the country at all.

Considering the extremely dangerous position of the Christian people, we beg you, Sir, to be kind enough to take steps on behalf of Christianity and humanity, that these defenceless poor people may be saved from the hands of the bloody Kurds, and the Christians may have the happiness to enjoy tranquillity and peace.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) HATCHADOOR, *Katholicos of Akhtamar.*

No. 246.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received June 29.)

(No. 70.)
My Lord, *Therapia, June 22, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a very interesting Report from Colonel Wilson, Consul-General at Anatolia, on the reforms which he considers desirable in that region.

This Report derives additional interest from the fact that Abeddin Pasha, who was Governor-General of Sivas, entertains the highest opinion of Colonel Wilson. He stated to me, in very enthusiastic language, that Colonel Wilson was "truth personified," absolutely impartial, and thoroughly trusted by the Turks. I have read the observations of Colonel Wilson. There is much in them with which, so far as I am able to judge at present, I am inclined to agree, and your Lordship will notice that there are many points where the suggestions of Colonel Wilson agree with those which I reported as having been thrown out by Abeddin Pasha.

But there are other portions of the plan elaborated by Colonel Wilson which, however wise in themselves, seem to me scarcely practicable; such as, for instance, the appointment of a Commission two-third Europeans and one-third Turk, who should have power to dismiss summarily and without appeal any official, administrative or judicial, who has been proved to be guilty of misconduct to the satisfaction of a majority of a quorum. Colonel Wilson suggests this plan as something short of actual occupation and administration, but it appears to me that the Turks would as soon admit a partial European administration as give such enormous power over their own officials to a European majority.

I call attention to this point, as it is in some sense the key-note to Colonel Wilson's plan; and, as he has alluded to it before in his despatch No. 45, in which he says, when summing up his very valuable observations on the project of reform of the Gregorian Armenian Bishop of Sivas, "The only hope of introducing real reforms into Asia Minor is to form a Commission composed almost entirely of Europeans, who should have power to dismiss summarily and without appeal all officials, from the Valis and Cadis to the junior clerks, in the Government offices who are found guilty of misconduct."

There can be no doubt that such a Commission with stringent powers would, more than any other institution, assure real improving reforms, for there is now as great a need of earnest men to execute as of intelligent men to introduce reforms.

But I question whether such vast powers can be obtained, and further, whether, if it is quite impossible to hope for its attainment by negotiations, it would be well to put it forward as a demand. In calling attention to this one important feature of Colonel Wilson's plan, I am very far from wishing to detract from the general breadth and moderation which characterize his mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 246.

Memorandum by Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson on Anatolia and necessary Reforms.

(Confidential.)

Consular Jurisdiction.

THE jurisdiction of the Consul-General in Anatolia extends over the Vilayets of Khodavendkyar (the Empire State), capital Brusa; Aidin, capital Smyrna; Kastambul (Kastamuni), capital Kastambul; Enguriyeh (Angora), capital Angora; Konieh, capital Konieh; Sivas, capital Sivas; and Adana, capital Adana; and the Sandjaks of Khoja Ili (Ismidt); Biga (Dardanelles); and Janik (Samsun). The Consulate at Smyrna is independent, and the Consul-General has no authority over any of the Consuls, Vice-Consuls, or Consular Agents appointed prior to the Cyprus Convention, with the exception of Mr. Gatheral at Angora. These gentlemen have been directed to give such assistance and information in political matters as the Consul-General and the Vice-Consuls under his orders may from time to time require from them; in all ordinary and routine business they report to the Consuls of Aleppo, Smyrna, Constantinople, and Trebizond.

The eastern boundary of the district follows an irregular line from the Gulf of Scanderun through Hadjin, Derendeh, Divrik, and Kara Hissar to the Black Sea near Cape Yuna.

The sub-districts are:—

Sivas, Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson.
Konieh, Captain Stewart.
Adana and Kaisariyeh, Lieutenant Bennet.
Angora, Mr. Gatheral.
Brusa and Kastambul with Ismidt, Major Warlow.
Aidin, Lieutenant Chermside, now at Sivas.

The Country: Physical Features.

The general character of the country from the Ægean to the Anti-Taurus Mountains is that of a plateau, from 3,000 to 4,500 feet above the sea, supported or buttressed by mountains which in places attain an altitude of from 7,000 to 8,000 feet; the Anti-Taurus Mountains support a higher plateau which extends eastwards towards Erzeroum. Here and there minor ranges rise above the level of the plateau, and Mount Argæus, the centre of a volcanic group, is more than 12,000 feet high. The valleys in the plateau are as a rule broad and open, but on approaching the coast-line the rivers either find their way through deep, almost inaccessible gorges, or wide trough-like valleys such as those of the Meander and Hermus.

Agricultural and Mineral Wealth.

The country is very fertile, and exceptionally rich in mineral wealth; nearly every kind of fruit grows in perfection, and with better means of communication a large trade might be opened up in dried fruits; many districts are favourable to the production of silk, cotton, rice, opium, liquorice, tobacco, madder, gum tragacanth, yellow berries, the valonia oak, &c., and the soil is very suitable to the growth of Indian corn, millet, and cereals; improved roads and means of transport would be followed by a large export trade in wheat and barley.

The hill-sides provide pasture for immense numbers of goats, including the Angora mohair goat, and sheep, whilst camels and a hardy breed of horses are raised on the upland plains.

In spite of wholesale destruction and mismanagement, a belt of dense forest still extends from Mount Olympus, near Brusa, through Kastambul to the new frontier east of Trebizond; there are also large forests in the Taurus and Anti-Taurus Mountains. The timber in these forests is of very great value.

The only barren district is the salt desert in the interior, and much of that might be reclaimed by irrigation.

Amongst the minerals are gold, silver, lead, iron, coal, boracide, chrome, fuller's earth, rock-salt, emery, kaolin, and meerschaum; large quantities of salt are also obtained by evaporation from the salt lakes and the sea; in many districts serpentine and fine marbles are found. The mines are the property of the Sultan; few of them are worked on account of the loss involved in working them; the cost of working is charged to the province, the result goes to the Sultan.

With its magnificent sea-board, and its great agricultural and mineral wealth, Asia Minor ought to be one of the most prosperous countries in the world; misgovernment is alone responsible for its present wretched condition.

The People.

Moslem.—The great mass of the Moslem peasantry belongs to the old *indigenous race* which adopted Islam at the conquest, and seems to have had great powers of assimilation, or absorption. In some villages the peasants are evidently of Armenian origin, in others of Greek, or Turk; there are also traces of the Gallic settlement, and in the Aidin Vilayet the Zeibeks appear to belong to a different stock; the ordinary type, however, is persistent throughout, and approaches somewhat that of the race pictured in the rock sculptures of Boghazkeui.

The peasants are hardy, docile, brave, patient, of simple habits, hospitable, and kind to one another; but they are apathetic, ignorant, unenterprising, and far below the Arab in energy or mechanical skill. They are entirely without education, and have for the last 2,000 years made little advance in agriculture, house architecture, or any kind of civilization.

The *Turks proper*, always numerically small, are chiefly found in the towns, or, as large landowners, in the villages, and they form the greater portion of the official class. There are also villages in the Angora and Brusa Vilayets which are purely Turk.

The upper classes have no sympathy with the poorer Moslem peasantry, and look upon them as inferior beings from whom they may take all they can get. They are vain, proud, have no feeling of patriotism, and are swayed by no impulses save those of personal fear or interest. They hate and fear Western Christians for their success and power, and Eastern Christians for their present weakness and future strength. The Turks are wanting in commercial enterprise, and do not understand laying out a portion of their capital on the chance of doubling their income in a few years. Even Government prefers a small income without outlay to a large revenue which would require the expenditure of a small capital. The character of the Turk has changed much during the last twelve years, and drunkenness and other vices have increased to a great extent. The Stamboul Turk, though he may talk French and profess to admire Western civilization, is at heart as much a Turk as his compatriot in the provinces.

The poorer *Moslem peasantry* are as much oppressed as the Christian, but a certain *esprit de corps*, or fear of their co-religionists, prevents them from complaining or joining the Christians in throwing off the hated yoke. The vast majority would welcome any change, even the introduction of an armed force, whether English, Russian, French, or German, which would result in the introduction of those measures for the amelioration of their condition which they despair of receiving from their own Government.

The *Kurds*, with the exception of isolated villages in various parts of the country, are confined to a comparatively small district in the Sivas Vilayet. They speak the Kurd language, and are divided into Sunni and Kizilbash (Shiite) Kurds; there is also a tribe which professes to be of Christian, possibly Armenian, origin. The Shiite Kurds have on more than one occasion complained to me of the unjust manner in which they are treated by the Turkish officials, and have even expressed a wish to become Christians, probably to escape military service. The Kurds in the Sivas Vilayet are under fair control, and though they commit frequent robberies on Armenian and Moslem villages in the border land, there is little of the disorder which exists further east. The two most influential Beys, one a noted robber and murderer, were imprisoned by Abeddin Pasha, and after their imprisonment robberies almost ceased.

The *Aoschalars* live in the Anti-Taurus; a few years ago they were semi-nomadic and in open insurrection against the Government. After their conquest a

portion of their lands was given to the Circassian emigrants of 1862-64, and they were settled in villages. According to their own tradition they came from the borders of Persian Khorassan; they speak Turkish, but have a peculiar dialect of their own; they are bold robbers, and still somewhat intractable. The Turkish Governor only visits them once or twice a-year to collect taxes; when I was in their country last year they complained, like every one else, of Turkish misgovernment.

The *Circassians* are partly emigrants from Circassia after the capture of Schamyl, and partly emigrants from Roumelia, Bulgaria, and Circassia since the late war; they belong to several tribes speaking two distinct languages and several dialects. Some of the tribes, such as the Gabartai, Obukh, &c., belong to a fine stock, and show great capacity for education; they are more manly, vigorous, intelligent, and truthful than the native peasantry, and with proper government would form an element of strength to the country. The Abbasekh, Shabsekh, &c., on the other hand, are neither so intelligent nor so trustworthy as the Gabartai, but even in their case their faults and crimes are largely due to the position in which they have been placed. If hundreds of strong, well-armed, half-starving men, with wives and families to provide for, are placed in the midst of a weak, timorous people, the natural consequences, robbery and murder, must follow when no provision is made for their control, support, or settlement. Circassian communities are found in every part of the country; the principal settlements are the Uzun Yailas, or high plateaux east of Sivas, where are Gabartai, Tegai, and Alti Kezek; the low country near Amasia and Samsun, where are Abbasekh and Shabsekh; Sinope, the Hagütch; Ada Bazar, Durjé, and Sabanji; the Abbasekh, Shabsekh, and Obukh; and Balikhissar, the Abbasekh.

The Circassians have in many places introduced improved carts, more comfortable houses, and a better system of agriculture, and next to the Albanians they supply the most capable, honest, and straightforward officials in Turkey.

The *Tartars* are widely scattered over the country; they are quiet and industrious, and have most of the wheeled transport, such as it is, in their hands.

In the Sivas Vilayet and in other districts there are groups of so-called Kizilbash villages. The *Kizilbashis* are Shiites, and appear to belong to the indigenous race. They are a quiet, inoffensive people, much oppressed by the Government officials and Sunni Moslems.

The principal *nomads* are the *Turkomans* and *Yuruks*, both of Turk origin; the former are found chiefly in the Angora Vilayet; the latter spread everywhere; they are large camel owners, and carry on most of the camel transport, the men sometimes being away from their homes for seven or eight months at a time; they have also large flocks of sheep and goats. The Government has made several attempts to settle the nomads, but has not met with much success.

There are also large numbers of *gipsies*, some of whom are Armenians professing a kind of Christianity.

Many *Lazis*, *Georgians*, *Pomaks*, &c., are to be found amongst the refugees.

The refugees form an element in the Moslem population which cannot be neglected; they are still unsettled, and add to the general confusion. Their number at first was probably not far short of 250,000, but hundreds have since died.

Christians.—The Christian races are the Armenian and Greek, each disliking the other as cordially as they both hate the Turk.

The *Armenians* are divided into the Gregorian (Orthodox), Roman Catholic, and Protestant sects, which are usually at variance with each other, and rarely combine for any common object. Not only do the different sects intrigue against each other; but the Gregorians are rarely or ever united amongst themselves on any question of local politics. In Western Anatolia Armenians are to be found in all the larger towns; they are, as a rule, well-to-do merchants or artizans. The first purely Armenian village is Istanoz, near Angora; this, however, is an exception; the Armenians are first met with in any considerable numbers in the Vilayets of Sivas and Adana, and here, too, the Armenian language first comes into common use; in the western and central districts Turkish alone is spoken, but it is written in the Armenian character. Great efforts are now being made to introduce the Armenian language everywhere, and a mistaken tendency is shown to discourage a knowledge of Turkish.

The Armenian character is extremely complex and difficult to understand; the peasantry are sober, intelligent, frugal, laborious, and greedy of gain, but entirely without education, immoral, fanatic, bigoted, and completely under the influence of an illiterate, ignorant, and sensual priesthood opposed to all education and advancement. The townsmen are shrewd, intelligent, egotistical, and proud, with a slight superficial education; but there is always a small percentage of well educated men capable of filling, with advantage to the State, most of the official appointments in the provinces.

Neighbourhood, long custom, and certain religious relations have inclined the Armenians towards Russia; they know well that their shewdness, their love of falsehood, of espionage, and of intrigue, and their unbounded covetousness are highly appreciated by Russia as a political means, and they boast of being an essentially political people. Their tendency is to magnify everything, and this appears in their political aspirations, which are not deep or real. They now dream of Loris Melikoff, of their mythical Kings, and of revenge on the Moslem, but some reforms common to every one would probably content them. Their sympathy with Russia can only be removed by positive boons on the part of England by opening up a career for the educated classes in the service of the State, and by securing for them the means of making money. Let the Armenian have a career, or let him work, traffic, and earn money, and he will cease to be politically troublesome.

The Armenian character is wanting in stability, courage, and self-reliance, and generally in those qualities necessary for self-government, *e.g.*, the mismanagement of their Constitution, now twenty years old, one of the most liberal ever granted to a subject people. The Armenians are excitable, litigious, and quarrelsome in small matters, but they have great aptitude for commerce, and a spirit of nationality which has survived through centuries of oppression with extraordinary vitality, and above all a real, earnest desire for progress. Truth and honesty are sadly deficient, but one of the most hopeful signs is the effect of the teaching of the American missionaries, who impress on the people the necessity of these virtues; in many places now the simple word of a Protestant Armenian is accepted without question.

The tendency of the Armenian movement is towards opposition to established authority; the Armenians wish to take the place of the Turks; nothing else will satisfy the men who manage the movement at Stamboul. There are many elements of danger in the movement now going on, but they could easily be met if the Porte were frankly to acknowledge the necessity of reforms and carry them out. The Armenians were bitterly disappointed last year when the extravagant hopes raised by the Cyprus Convention were unfulfilled, and their feeling towards England underwent a marked change; the feeling is probably not deep-rooted, and they would at any rate welcome any one who would release them from what they consider intolerable oppression.

The Armenians are very exclusive in religious matters, and they mix up ideas of religion and kinship in a peculiar way. It might perhaps be advisable to encourage the formation of a National Ottoman Armenian Church, as a political measure, in the sense suggested by Mr. Henderson and Lieutenant Chermside.

A majority of the *Greek population* is found in the vicinity of the coast-line, especially in the Vilayet of Aidin; there are, however, isolated groups of Greek villages in different parts of the country, chiefly in the mountainous districts, inhabited by people, partly of Greek, partly of Pontic-Cappadocian descent, who retained their religion at the time of the conquest. There are also the Greeks of Silleh, near Konieh, and those of Kaisariyeh and its neighbourhood, who have a reputation throughout Anatolia for energy and commercial activity. The peasants are quite uneducated and controlled by priests as ignorant as themselves; in many districts Turkish only is spoken, but written in the Greek character. The townsmen are as a rule wealthy, enterprising, and well educated. The character of the Greeks and their intellectual activity are well known. The wealthier Greeks are making extraordinary efforts to educate the people; masters and mistresses are engaged who are either Athenians or Anatolians educated at Athens, and a series of good school books has been introduced. The whole educational system is on a much broader and healthier basis than that of the Armenians; and good instruction is given in Turkish, to enable the people, as was once said to me, "to take over the Government when the time comes."

The Greek movement has for its object the re-establishment, so far as may be, of a Byzantine Empire, with Constantinople as the capital. This aim may seem visionary at present, but a strong and carefully fostered national feeling is growing up, and in less than twenty years there will be a large, well-educated Greek population in Western Anatolia, with definite views and objects. The Anatolian Greeks

look to Russia for protection and deliverance, and they were previous to and during the war the most active Russian agents.

The Greeks, by their hold on the finances of the country, have considerable power and influence in the provinces; this is specially the case with M. Zarifi, whose agents are found almost everywhere.

In the larger towns of Western Anatolia there are Jewish communities, principally of Judaeo-Spanish descent. They are generally money changers or tradesmen, and quiet industrious people.

Religious Aspect.

There is amongst the people of Anatolia the broad distinction of the two creeds: Islam and Christian; the members of the one never forgetting that they won and still hold their present position by right of conquest, for the indigenous race has in this respect identified itself with the conquerors, and ever resenting and resisting all attempts to alter it; the members of the other hating the Moslem with a bitter hatred engendered by years of oppression, and always striving to acquire a predominance which they think recent events have placed almost within their grasp.

Great efforts have undoubtedly been made during the last year by inflammatory sermons in the mosques, and other means, to bring about a recrudescence of fanaticism, but as far as my own observation goes, they have failed to produce the expected result. Instances have occurred in which the sermons have influenced the action of individuals, but the people have not been, as a body, affected by them.

The Christians have many and just grievances, but as regards actual oppression, they are in a better position than the Moslems. Both suffer alike from local Notables, the tax collectors, and misgovernment; but the Christian has his spiritual Chief to fight his battles for him, the Moslem no one; the Christian is often rich enough to bribe the courts, the Moslem rarely; the Christian pays a light tax to escape army service; the Moslem has to bear the full weight of the conscription—a terrible tax when it is remembered that only one-third of the men called up for the war returned to their homes. On the other hand, the "amour-propre" of the Christian is constantly being hurt, and his self-respect destroyed by the manner in which he is treated by the Moslems, injuries which sink deeply into the heart and are never forgiven. A Christian is always treated disdainfully as an inferior being; he is called a dog or an infidel; no importance is attached to his evidence in a Court of law, or to his opinion in the various councils; he is excluded from nearly every class of Government employment, and if he be robbed or murdered the offenders are rarely punished.

General Remarks.

The population of Anatolia is thus composed of different races, religions, and languages that show little tendency to amalgamate, and a better Government than that of Turkey would find the task of administration a difficult one even if it were not complicated by foreign intrigues. The conditions of independent political existence do not exist amongst the heterogeneous communities of Anatolia; there is no part of the country in which the Greeks or Armenians are in a sufficient majority to form even the smallest autonomous state, and the only race, that indigenous to the country, which has a numerical superiority is the one which is least advanced and has least ambition. What the Armenians really mean by autonomy (the Greeks have different aims) is that they should govern the Turks as the Turks have governed them. Any attempt in this direction would draw the Moslem tribes and sects together as they have not been drawn together for the last century, and would possibly lead to a combined attack on, perhaps massacre of, the Christians.

Reforms, &c.—Before suggesting any remedies to the present system of misrule in the provinces, I would beg to state my firm conviction that the country cannot be extricated from its present difficulties without very strong pressure from without, simple means of persuasion will be useless in the future as they have been in the past; and that no real or permanent reform can be introduced into Anatolia without some form of European control, or until the Central Government at Stamboul is purified. There is, perhaps, no country in the world in which the personal character of men in power has such influence on subordinates, or in which the

example of the capital is so closely followed in the provinces. Robbery, bribery, and every form of corruption are at their height in Stamboul, and thence they spread over the vilayets; every official in the provinces has his recognized and subsidized protector in the capital. Every place has its price, and the system of Government is complicated by the worst form of personal intrigues. As long, too, as measures agreed upon by the Porte are secretly opposed by the Palace, and good Ministers are exiled at twenty-four hours' notice, or bad ones arbitrarily recalled and placed in the highest positions, there can be no guarantee that the Administration will be honest. The Sultan is supreme; he can have good or bad Ministers, as he pleases, and so on downwards. The situation is aptly described in the homely Turkish proverb, "The fish stinks from the head;" and, in quoting this to me, Notables, and even officials, have added, "when the European Powers have sweetened the head, you will find no difficulty in purifying the body and tail."

As regards European control, short of actual occupation and administration, I would suggest the following:—A Commission, two-thirds European, and one-third Turk, to sit at some convenient place in Anatolia, perhaps Angora, with power to dismiss summarily, and without appeal any official, administrative or judicial, who has been proved to be guilty of misconduct to the satisfaction of the majority of a quorum; European Inspectors of the Courts of Justice and of the Finance Departments, selected European full-pay officers for the gendarmerie, European management of the Customs, the Inland Revenue, and Finance, or Revenue Department at Stamboul.

In the capital the tendency should, I think, be to diminish the direct personal influence of the Sultan in matters of detail, to transfer some of the power now wielded by the Sovereign to his Ministers, to destroy the shameless influence and intrigues of the Palace, to introduce Ministerial responsibility in its true sense, to insist upon the employment of capable men in the highest offices, and to form a school of statesmen who would draw their inspiration from England and the west, rather than from Russia and the east. During the last year English sympathies, and a desire for the introduction of some degree of Western culture and morality in the conduct of public business, have been the worst passports to favour and promotion. The best educated, most honest, and capable men in Turkey are now in banishment; though as a rule opposed to the employment of European officials, they look to England and the West for encouragement, and if they should ever come into power again, and be properly supported, they would soon effect a change for the better.

One of the best means of bringing pressure to bear on the corruption of the Central Government, would be the re-assembly of the Imperial Parliament; no measure would be so universally popular in the provinces, and the new Members would be more independent, and speak out more openly than they did on the last occasion. The official Turk fears first of all dismissal from office, next public criticism of his actions, and, though Parliament might at first do little as regards legislation, I believe the outspoken criticism of its members would have a most salutary effect on the conduct of corrupt officials. The members would also supply local information of which the Stamboul Turk, who is as ignorant of the provinces and their requirements as he is of Western Europe, is much in need.

Anatolia is not ripe for reform, or for constitutional government, as they are understood in England. Reforms are not introduced by means of complicated legal regulations, based on the Code Napoléon, and quite unsuitable to the habits and traditions of the people, or by flooding the country with a host of officials with Western titles and high salaries several months in arrear; nor can reforms be forced on a people, they must proceed by a natural, but carefully fostered, process of evolution. What Anatolia requires more than anything is to be governed, with firmness and justice, by good men with large powers, who would restore order and pave the way for those reforms which advancing civilization will eventually render necessary.

The Vilayet Law of 1867 was framed by men who knew the country well; it adopted the commune, which was probably in existence long before the appearance of the Turks, as the basis of the administrative system, and was well adapted to the habits and requirements of the people. It was also capable of development in the right direction with advancing civilization. Unfortunately all changes hitherto, with the exception of Midhat's short-lived Constitution, have been in the wrong direction.

Corrupt administration is the root of all, or nearly all, the evils Turkey is

suffering from, and an energetic attempt should be made to purify it on the lines of the Vilayet Law and Midhat's Constitution—to begin, in fact, by enforcing the execution of existing laws.

The electoral system of Turkey is simple; it is based on universal suffrage, and the commune is taken as the unit. Unfortunately, like everything else in Turkey, it has been twisted and turned until it has become almost an instrument of oppression. The system, however, still allows the villagers great latitude in the management of their own affairs, even the farming of their own taxes if they wish, and the Christians, even when in a minority, are represented by their spiritual Chiefs and elected members. It is true that the elected Councils very often become "rings" of speculators, but the electoral system is a great power in the hands of the people, and they can use it for good or ill. With progress and enlightenment, many of the evils would disappear.

Recommendations.—The elections, from those of the village Headman and Council of Elders, to those of the Administrative Council of the Vilayet, should be carried out according to law. They should be really and not nominally free, and every effort should be made to destroy the influence of the local Beys and Notables.

Greater care should be taken in framing the lists of candidates submitted to the electors, so as to avoid party-government and the formation of local "rings."

The nahiés and cazas should be rearranged with a view of grouping Christian villages together, and Christian Mudirs and Kaïmakams appointed where the Christians are in a majority.

The system of ruling the people by religious communities should be abolished.

The composition of the Administrative Councils should be altered by excluding the Government officials who are *ex officio* members, and the spiritual Chiefs, and by increasing the number of elected members.

The Provincial Councils, elected according to law, should be called together each year for certain definite purposes.

As directed by the Vilayet Law, Lieutenant-Governors should be appointed to administer the home sandjaks and assist the Governor-Generals.

Personnel.—One of the most difficult questions to deal with is the almost universal and hopeless corruption of the "personnel," a corruption so deep, so widespread, and so open that it has a material effect not only on official business, but on the ordinary transactions of daily life. The Administrative Staff is incapable of self-regeneration; a Turk would laugh at any one who thought it possible; officials often openly confess their inability to reform, and no one except a few officials believes in the reform promises and programmes of the Porte.

Some of the worst features are: insecure tenure of office; an official is not the servant of Government, but of the man who obtained his appointment for him; he can be removed at will, and a conscientious performance of his duties is no security for promotion or retention in office; low pay, non-payment of it, and sale of appointments; men are forced to take bribes that they may live, and lay by money to purchase a new post; an overgrown staff, from ten to twenty men are employed to do the work of one; immunity from punishment, the Valis have no power of dismissal, and dishonest functionaries, instead of being punished, are suspended and transferred to another vilayet, the result is that superior orders are rarely obeyed by subordinates, unless it suits them to do so, and that there is great friction in the conduct of business, and a want of cohesion amongst the officials; over centralization and constant irritating interference of the Central Government at Constantinople; the principal officials have no initiative, the smallest question has to be referred to Stamboul, and each official reports separately and directly to his own Department; there are twelve such Departments in each vilayet; the Departments at Stamboul often leave pressing questions unanswered for weeks, and send out contradictory orders. Influence of local notables: this is generally so great that few Governors-General, and fewer subordinate officials, are able to resist its selection of officials; the official class is drawn from men of no education, of questionable antecedents, and of no training, and educated Christians are rarely employed. Immorality: the advancement of young men in the lower grades, especially of Christians, is too often due to their submission to the desire of their superiors, and this is one of the principal reasons why the better class of Christians hold aloof from the public service.

Recommendations.—There is no doubt that a good Chief makes a good staff, and the first point is to secure good Governors-General, appoint them for five years, and give them fuller powers. The Valis should be able to suspend Mutessarifs, Defterdars, and Mektubjis, and to dismiss summarily all minor administrative officials on their incapacity or misconduct having been proved; the revised Administrative Council might act as a Court of Investigation. They should also have the right of objecting to the appointment of Mutessarifs, Defterdars, and Mektubjis, and of appointing Kaïmakams and Mudirs. The Committee of Appointments at Constantinople should be abolished, or its powers greatly limited. The Civil Service should be reorganized and purified; the staff of the vilayets should be reduced to proper dimensions, and its members should be appointed for fixed periods, and be well and regularly paid. Good men should be rewarded and promoted, bad ones punished and dismissed; an official once dismissed to lose all chance of further employment. Personal responsibility should be brought home to every official. The laws against perjury, bribery and immoral conduct should be made easier of application, and be more strictly enforced. Officials above the rank of ordinary clerk should never be nominated to appointments in their native towns. The sale, directly or indirectly, of appointments should be forbidden under stringent penalties. Decentralization: more freedom of action should be given to the provincial officials, and the various Departments should work under and report to the Vali, to whom the various Departments at Stamboul should address their orders and circulars. Greater care should be taken in the selection of subordinate officials, and every class of civil service employment should be thrown open to the Christians. Schools or colleges should be established for the training of officials. One great object should be to to establish the Civil Service on such a footing that a man would have a career in it, and feel that by talent and industry he might sometime rise to be a Lieutenant-Governor or Governor-General.

Finance.

The finances of the provinces are in a complete state of disorganization, and the officials, who usually know no rules of arithmetic but those of addition and substraction, are quite unable to set them right. No reforms of any kind can be introduced until the custom of sending nearly all the revenue of the vilayets to Stamboul is abolished, and the system of issuing havalés (Treasury orders) in excess of the vilayet revenues is put an end to. A Vali cannot govern justly when he is always being squeezed for money at Stamboul; nor can a Defterdar and his staff remain honest when they are surrounded by havalé holders, almost openly offering bribes for preference payment. No useful work, no improvement in the gendarmerie, in education, or in the roads and means of communication, can be thought of when there is no money in the local Chest. The havalé system is one of the worst that has ever been introduced into a country; it has led to much gambling, speculation, and corruption, and is to a very large extent responsible for the present state of famine and distress throughout Anatolia. All ready money has been sent to Stamboul, and then the local officials have either been ordered or bribed to cheash the tithes, so as to pay the havalés; in this way the Government granaries have been emptied of corn, which would have saved many lives and a large amount of most intense distress.

The peasantry have lost heavily, and their condition has consequently been impaired, by the depreciation first of caïmé, then of copper, and lastly of beshlik.

The loss to the Treasury, and the waste through the incompetence of officials, peculation, and the custom of allowing "bakié," or arrears, is quite astonishing. Take, for instance, the budget of the Sivas Vilayet for the year 1295 (1879-80):—

	Prs.	£
Revenue	36,563,091	231,291
Uncollected arrears (not one-tenth recoverable) ..	30,368,653	270,759
Expenditure	35,342,047	271,866
Vilayet debts	71,266,059	548,205

These are Turkish figures, and present the case in its most favourable light.

Taxation.

There is perhaps nothing from which the people of Anatolia suffer more than from the irregular manner in which the taxes are collected and the arbitrary assess-

ment. Taxes are now demanded in gold and silver, which the peasant has to purchase in the town bazaars with the depreciated currency; some taxes have recently been increased, and the weight of taxation generally is heavier, whilst the power of the peasant to bear it is constantly decreasing.

Verghi.—There are great abuses in the collection and distribution of this tax. Land and house property are assessed sometimes far below, sometimes far above their value, and books and records are frequently falsified. The peasants are also forced to give officials and tax-collecters, in food or in money, an equivalent to half the tax; if they do not do so, they are beaten or ill-treated.

The sheep tax is very irregularly collected; the collector goes to a man owning 500, and for a consideration writes down 300, and so on. Sheep and goats also pay the same tax.

Tithes.—The tithe system has, I think, been much misunderstood; it is of very ancient origin, and dates from a time when there were no currency, no means of transport, and no export trade or commercial activity; and the storage of grain was then the only means of guarding against famine. This is virtually the state of the greater portion of Anatolia at the present day; coin is very scarce, in some villages change for a Turkish pound cannot be procured; there are no proper means of transport, and consequently a very small export trade; and there is the greatest difficulty in relieving distress when the tithes have been sold and there is no corn in the granaries. The country is, in fact, not ripe for the abolition of the tithe system, and the tithe, if fairly collected, is a light tax, and one that the peasant has no difficulty in paying.

There is, however, in the collection of the tithes gross and almost open fraud; and, whether the tithes are sold or collected by Government, the Treasury does not receive more than one-third of what it should do, and the peasant pays more than he ought. The system of "bakié," or arrears, by which local Notables make large fortunes at the expense of the Government, is also a very bad one. The system of collection is wrong and the collectors dishonest.

The same evils exist in the assessment and collection of the *municipal* and *lands* taxes.

The system of financial inspection adopted a few month ago has, as far as it has come under my notice, been a complete failure. With few exceptions incompetent men have been appointed on high salaries, and they have done nothing except draw their pay and live at free quarters wherever they happened to be. The junior appointments were almost openly sold.

Recommendations.—The most obvious remedies are, the establishment of genuine provincial budgets, in which should be shown the estimated revenue and expenditure; the sum remitted to the Imperial Treasury to be a fixed percentage of the estimated revenue, and certain definite sums or percentages to be allotted to pay of officials, pay of gendarmerie, Public Works, Education, Justice, &c. The employment of a better-educated class of officials, especially of Christians, in the Accounts Departments, and selection of capable men as Defterdars; it is somewhat curious that whilst in India every Moslem has a Hindoo or man of alien race to manage his money transactions for him, the Turk has the greatest distrust of the Armenians, and rarely employs them in the Finance Departments. A proper system of book-keeping is much wanted, the present books are unintelligible even to Turks. A reassessment of land and house property on an equitable basis, by a Government official and the Mukhtars and Councils of Elders of the Communes (Cariés). The sheep tax to be collected through the Councils of Elders under proper supervision. The tithes when collected by Government to be collected by the Councils of Elders, who should be made responsible for the correctness of the returns of produce, and the collection of the tithes under well-paid inspectors. This system was introduced, I believe, into Eastern Roumelia with much success by Mr. Schmidt. The hardships connected with the carriage of the tithes to the granaries should be removed. When the tithes are sold the villagers should be encouraged to purchase their own tithes; and steps should be taken to abolish the gambling, speculation, robbery, and oppression of the tithe farmers. No arrears should be allowed. The tithe of grapes, fruit in general, opium, and other perishable articles should be commuted for money payment on an equitable valuation.

The present system of financial inspection should be altered, and competent men, Europeans if possible, be appointed as inspectors with executive powers. The issue of havalés should be brought within proper limits.

Justice.—There has probably never been a time in which the prestige of the Courts has fallen so low, or in which the administration of justice has been so venal and corrupt. No one is ever proposed for election to the Courts from a belief that he will make a just and upright Judge. The most open and shameless bribery is practised from highest to lowest; prompt, even-handed justice for rich and poor alike is unknown; sentence is given in favour of the suitor who "places" his money most judiciously; imprisonment or freedom has in many places become a matter of bribery; robbers when arrested are protected by members of the Court, who share their spoil; crimes go unpunished, and all manner of oppression and injustice is committed with impunity. The Cadis are, as a rule, ignorant men, with no education, knowing little of law except the Sheri, and not over much of that. As to the members of the Courts, it is sufficient to say that they are ignorant of law, and that probably not 25 per cent. of them can write Turkish or read the sentences to which they attach their seals. Witnesses are tampered with or intimidated; Christian evidence is disregarded; false seals are used; and in every town a curiously-organized system of perjury has grown up. The prisons are horrible, unclean dens into which men awaiting trial, criminals undergoing sentence, debtors, peasants who cannot pay their taxes, and boys of tender age are alike thrust. The simplest cases drag on for years, and suitors make constant complaints of the high fees, the heavy bribes, and great cost of litigation.

The changes introduced last year only served to throw the whole judicial judicial machinery, such as it was, out of gear. The Code Napoléon, suitable to France and Western civilization, is unsuitable to Asia Minor. The country was not ripe for the entire separation of the judicial from the administrative; and the inspectors appointed had no executive powers, and were merely reporters whose reports were treated with indifference or completly ignored at the Ministry of Justice.

The Sheri (religious Code) is still the civil law, and imposed with great injustice on the mixed population of the Empire, which contains several million Christians and Jews.

Recommendations.—The following modifications are suggested:—

Great care should be taken in the selection of names submitted for election to the Courts, and the elections should be free.

The number of officials should be diminished and the pay of those retained raised and paid regularly.

The Cadis should be selected with great care, and appointed for five years instead of two; more Moslems, who are not members of the Ulema, should be employed, and a certain proportion of Christian Judges and Clerks to the Court should be appointed.

The Mejelé, a recension of the Sheri, should not be used in mixed cases; a new Civil Code on a broader basis should be introduced.

The laws relating to bribery, perjury, and blood-money to be abolished or modified, and the new legal regulations carefully revised.

Christian evidence to be really, and not nominally, accepted.

The procedure of the Courts to be simplified, so as to allow cases to be settled in a reasonable time.

Court-fees to be abolished.

The power of the Mustantiks (Examiners) to be diminished.

Resident Inspectors to be abolished and good men, Europeans by preference, to be sent on annual tours from Constantinople, with executive powers as regards dismissal of corrupt men. A certain proportion to be Christians.

Greater care to be taken in the selection of Public Prosecutors and their Assistants. The duties of Public Prosecutor in the cazas to be taken from the officers of zaptiehs and restored to the Kaïmakams.

The powers of the Bedaiet (First Instance) Courts to be diminished.

Travelling Courts of Assize, or Special Criminal Courts in the sandjaks, should be established, with large powers, to deal summarily with all classes of crime; and the present Criminal Courts should be abolished.

The Valis to have magisterial powers, and to be able to deal summarily with well-known robbers, though no witnesses appear.

The prisons should be improved, and hard labour introduced for condemned criminals.

Gendarmerie.

The want of a good gendarmerie or police force is well known; the present zaptiehs are badly armed and equipped, weak in number, ill-paid, and a terror to the good rather than to the bad.

I am in favour of a civil rather than a military police, but think that Baker Pasha's scheme, which has been elaborated carefully and pressed on the Porte, should have a fair trial.

The police force should contain a proportion of Christian officers and men, and the members should be well and regularly paid, and properly armed and equipped.

Any European officers employed should be selected men, serving on full pay in the armies of their respective countries.

The gendarmerie force should be recruited from men of good character.

The system of allowing zaptiehs to live at free quarters on the villagers, and make requisitions, should be abolished.

Land.

Land Revenue, &c.—There is no Department in which such great irregularities exist as in the Land Department. The revenue, which is very large, is kept separate from the general revenue, and sent direct to the Defter Hakané Department at Constantinople; it does not appear in the Budget, and finds its way to the Palace, or the clique of Pashas in Stamboul. Great irregularities exist in the collection of the revenue, and I have been told that the practice of the officials is to steal all they can.

The Evkaf (endowment) affairs are in a similar condition, the revenue is misapplied, and all the money goes to Stamboul.

The land registers are false; lands are assessed from one-fifth to one-tenth below their value in the official records, to defraud the Government; land titles are falsified, village lands are seized by local Beys and magnates, and I have visited very few villages in Anatolia in which land and boundary disputes have not been brought before me.

Recommendations.—The land revenue should appear in the Budget, and be treated like other branches of the revenue.

The Evkaf revenue should be devoted to its proper object—support of mosques, schools, bridges, and other useful works. Care should be taken, however, of individual rights, and allowance made for the circumstances attending the acts of endowment.

A new assessment of the land, an improved system of land registry, a cadastre, and a less corrupt official staff are much wanted.

The proposed Courts of Assize should have power to deal finally with land boundary cases within a fixed time. At present boundary cases drag on for ten or fifteen years.

Education.

The Moslem schools and colleges are in a lamentable state; years are spent poring over Arabic books on grammar and religion, and at the end the students know as little as when they commenced. To know a few verses of the Koran by heart, to be able to recite the proper prayers, and to be able to read and write, is to be a fairly educated man. Intelligent Turks desire the introduction of education on Western principles, and look to it as the sole means of retaining their present supremacy; but there are no teachers, and all available funds have been appropriated by the Government.

The educational movement amongst the Christians is largely due to the action of the American missionaries in establishing good schools and colleges at important centres; the Christians fearing proselytising in the Protestant schools started schools of their own.

The movement, though at present confined to the towns will, in a few years, produce important results, especially in fitting the Christians for those positions which they may some day be called upon to fill.

Recommendations.—Education should be encouraged, especially amongst the Moslems, a proper system established, and funds provided by the Evkaf Department or from the provincial revenue.

Elementary schools should be established in the villages; the Rushdiyeh

(higher mixed schools) which have hitherto been a failure, be reorganized, and training colleges for teachers formed.

The freedom of the press should be more real than it is, and more use made of newspapers as a means of spreading information and advancing education.

Public Works, Commerce, &c.

Public Works and encouragement to *industries* and *commerce* are much wanted.

There are no public works; money sufficient to cover the country with a network of roads has been raised by subscription, but it has either been squandered or stolen, and the people now refuse to subscribe. Government does little and that badly; in Brusa Vilayet alone is any improvement visible.

The introduction of commercial or agricultural industries would be a material boon to the people, and the means of drawing them together.

The Moslems and Christians are always more friendly towards each other in places where there is any commercial activity.

Recommendations.—Roads and other public works to be executed by foreign Companies.

Foreign capital to be introduced in the working of mines.

Certain industries, agricultural and commercial, to be encouraged.

Wheeled transport to be introduced.

Refugees.

The settlement of the refugees at an early date is a real and urgent necessity. At present they keep the country in a state of unrest, and the questions connected with their settlement are made the subject of speculation and intrigues amongst the local Notables who take money from the peasants and refugees alike.

The settlement should be effected by the Kaimakams of the Cazas and their Administrative Councils, under the general supervision of the Vali and Council of the vilayet.

Consular Authority.

The power of the Consuls to do good depends largely on the extent to which English influence prevails at Stamboul. The officials are only moved by motives of personal fear or interest; if the Governors-General, the Cadis, and higher officials know that a bad report from a Consul to Constantinople leads to disgrace, and a good one to promotion, the Consul can do much good; if they believe the contrary, the Consul is powerless. The effect of the varying shades of English influence at the capital last year was marked and curious.

The Consuls, though specially appointed with reference to the Cyprus Convention, are forbidden by their Firmans to interfere in the affairs of any Ottoman subject. This created the greatest feeling of disappointment, not only amongst the Christians, but amongst the Moslems, who equally looked for relief. In one case a Vali (Khoorchid Pasha of Angora), took advantage of this to decline taking any action on a case of robbery brought to his notice by Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Kaisariyeh (Captain Cooper). This happened at the time that the demands of Her Majesty's Ambassador for the dismissal of the Defterdar of Angora were being disregarded.

I am aware of the inconvenience which may arise from undue and irritating interference on the part of Consuls in small affairs, and how much the personal prejudice of Consuls has to answer for. I believe also that the Porte would resist to the last the introduction of any reference to the Cyprus Convention in the Firmans, but I think that some favourable occasion might be taken for requesting the omission of the prohibitory clause.

Politically, the appointment of English unpaid Vice-Consuls and of native unpaid Consular Agents does very great harm. Some of these men are stationed in places where there are no English interests, and they all use their position as a means of advancing their own interests, often in a way which no Englishman could approve. The system of unpaid Agents may answer well in countries where Western ideas of truth and morality prevail in the conduct of commercial affairs, and where the Consul can dissociate himself from the merchant when necessary, but in the East it is different. A Consul in Turkey is always a Consul. If, as a merchant, he deals in havalés, and bribes the officials to pay him, either himself or through his agents, it is the English Consul who bribes, and is paid, and not the

merchant. So if a native Consular Agent mixes himself with local intrigues, it is the English Consul who does so, not the merchant; and if the policy or intrigues of this important dignitary are checked, it is looked upon by the local people as a defeat of English policy. I cannot but think that, in the true interests of England, all unpaid Consular appointments in Turkey should be abolished; the state of affairs which rendered them necessary has passed away.

Résumé of principal Recommendations, &c.

Mixed population of Anatolia not ripe for reforms in the Western sense; no community possesses the conditions of independent political existence; the masses uncivilized and uneducated.

European control desirable, and external pressure necessary to insure the introduction of reforms.

General measures:—

Reassembly of Imperial Ottoman Parliament.
Enforce execution of existing laws.
Reform on the lines of the Vilayet Law of 1867 and Midhat's Constitution.
Purification of electoral system.
Break up system of government by religious communities.
Reorganization of Administrative Councils.
Appoint good men as Governors-General, and give them fuller powers.
Decentralization.
Reform of *personnel* of Civil Service.
Christians to have a career opened to them in the service of the State.
Provincial budgets to be established on a proper basis.
Remittances to Constantinople to be on a fixed scale.
Havalé system to be brought within proper limits.
Improved Financial Staff.
Improved system of collecting the taxes, and especially of the tithes.
Appointment of European Inspectors of Finance.
Elections to Courts of Law to be properly conducted.
Improved pay to members.
A Civil Code to be introduced for mixed cases.
Laws relating to perjury, bribery, and blood-money to be modified.
Christian evidence to be received.
Court fees to be abolished.
Travelling Courts of Assize to be established.
Prisons to be improved, and hard labour to be introduced.
Creation of a propor gendarmerie force.
European officers to be selected men on full pay.
Christians to be admitted to gendarmerie.
Reorganization of Land Department.
Land revenue to appear in the Budget.
Facilities to be afforded for the settlement of land disputes.
A new assessment of the land and improved system of land registry.
Improved educational system.
Special funds to be devoted to education.
Freedom of the press.
Public works, &c., to be carried out by foreign capital.
Certain industries to be encouraged.
Refugees to be settled.
Consular authority to be increased.
Unpaid Vice-Consulates and Consular Agencies to be abolished.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

June 16, 1880.

No. 247.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Earl Granville.—(*Received June* 30.)

(No. 17. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, June* 15, 1880.

ACCORDING to letters which I have just received from Batoum, the whole population of the district is making preparations for emigration to Turkey.

Only a very limited number of Lazes have sown their lands with Indian corn, which is usually gathered in October, a circumstance, however, which would hardly permit their removing to Turkey before next spring. Most of the other natives are selling their cattle and other movable property, but seem to find no purchasers for their lands. The inhabitants of Agara, Madjkhal, and Madjkhal Spiri have already demolished their houses and cut down the fruit trees.

It is reckoned that the generality of the intended emigrants are not provided with more than from one and-a-half to two months' provisions.

Seeing that no Government steamers were sent for them, those among the Lazes who were most anxious to depart, and had the means to pay their passage, have, since some time, embarked by parties of from five to twenty families on board mail steamers. However, there were as many as 600 emigrants on board the Russian steamer that called here yesterday on her way to Constantinople, and many more are expected to take passage before long on board other merchant steamers bound to the capital. They are embarked at the rate of 1*l.* per person, children and baggage free of freight.

There are now at Batoum and in the plain of Ghahaber, close to the town, upwards of 1,000 families waiting to be embarked. They are free from disease, but if they were allowed to camp longer in that unhealthy spot, with the overpowering heat that prevails at present, the least that could befall them would be to be all taken ill with ague. They seem resolved, if they could not remove to Turkey, to die at Ghahaber rather than return to their villages.

The inhabitants of the district of Morghool are said to have crossed the frontier *en masse*, and to be at Hoppa, waiting for ships. The natives of Morghool are sending their cattle overland to Ismid, to which place they are bound themselves.

It would appear that the places of settlement of some of the Lazes who are about to emigrate have not yet been fixed, but none of them are in destination to the Vilayet of Trebizond.

However, Sirri Pasha seems to have received confidential information that a number of emigrants wishing to settle in this province intend to apparently take their passage for Constantinople on board mail steamers, and, when at Kerassond or Ordoo, compel the captains to land them there.

Sirri Pasha has therefore given notice of the presumed project, for their guidance, to the Russian, French, and Austrian Consuls, the steamers of whose nations call at Batoum. The Russian Consul answered that he could do nothing in the matter, it being the affair of the authorities in that port; and I have reason to believe that the Austrian and French Consuls will limit themselves to cautioning the masters of the steamers of their respective nations against the presumed intentions of the emigrants. But if they attempted to carry out their supposed scheme, as the Governor-General has no means at his disposal to prevent their landing, their so doing, in defiance of the local authorities, might seriously endanger the public safety in the districts of Kerassond, Ordoo, and Oonieh.

The movement of emigration seems to have extended beyond the limits within which it was presumed to be circumscribed. The Mussulmans of Ardanoosh, east of Artwin, are making preparations for removal to Baiburt, where, it is said, they are invited to proceed by their countryman Suleiman Pasha, of Ghevlé, who is Governor of that place, and is paying 10*s.* to each immigrant.

I doubt, however, that the Turkish Government are in a disposition to make this offer in money, and that Suleiman Pasha would pay himself important sums to promote immigration from Russia.

However this may be, it seems that from 800 to 1,000 Mussulman families intend to remove this year to Baiburt, and the remainder of the population at a later period; the former have not sown their fields. The district of Ardanoosh contains forty-eight villages, inhabited by about 2,800 Mussulman families.

I also hear from Batoum that the rumour of an Armenian emigration from Artwin, which had spread a few months since, is again afloat; but my impression is that no serious intentions of departure are entertained. However, my informant believes that the Armenians in that district are earnestly thinking to emigrate to Turkey, owing to general

motives of dissatisfaction against the Russian administration; but he adds that they would prefer remaining at Batoum if they could obtain British or French protection, for which purpose they have even secretly applied to the French Consul in that port.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 248.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 159. Very Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.*

IT may be desirable, in order to prevent the risk of misunderstanding, that I should add some further observations to those contained in my despatch No. 71, Very Confidential, of the 10th instant, on the subject of the Convention of the 4th June, 1878.

In the first place, as regards the objections which Musurus Pasha said were entertained by the Porte to the special powers claimed by Her Majesty's Consuls in Asia Minor under the Convention, I may state that Her Majesty's Government do not contemplate the withdrawal of the British Consular officers in Asia Minor, nor do they consider, as at present advised, that such a step would be advantageous in the interests of the Porte or its subjects. They believe that the advice and information given by these officers may, if well received and considered, be a powerful assistance to the Turkish authorities in the task of introducing reforms and ensuring their practical working. But for this purpose, as I have already intimated, it seems to Her Majesty's Government that the right of supervision which accrues to Great Britain, in common with the other Powers, under Article LXI of the Treaty of Berlin, and the practice of unofficial advice and remonstrance by the Consuls of foreign nations, which has for years existed in all parts of the Sultan's dominions, would probably be sufficient; while the disclaimer of any special or exclusive rights beyond those enjoyed by other Powers might be useful in removing jealousy and suspicion of interested motives.

With respect, again, to that portion of my despatch above-mentioned which treats of the obligation, absolute and unlimited so far as the circumstances of this country are concerned, to join in the defence of the Asiatic provinces of Turkey against Russia, I may repeat that it is the desire of Her Majesty's Government that any declaration which might be substituted for this onerous obligation should show that they do not abandon the right to defend these provinces, if circumstances should arise which appear to them to make it necessary or expedient to do so.

Finally, I would observe that this matter stands upon a different footing from most of those which your Excellency is called upon to treat with the Porte. The instructions with which you have been furnished on your departure from this country contemplate, and, indeed, affirm, the necessity of bringing pressure to bear firmly, but respectfully, upon the Sultan, with regard to the execution of the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin. But as regards the question of any arrangement to replace the Convention of the 4th June, 1878, I have thought it necessary that you should be made acquainted with the opinions of Her Majesty's Government, rather with a view to prepare you for overtures which you may expect from the Turkish Ministers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 249.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 162.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.*

IN his despatch to Sir H. Layard No. 12 of the 12th ultimo, Captain Stewart states that the elections for the Idaré and other Medjlisses which were then going on would probably result in the return of Mehemet Ali and his associates.

Your Excellency should call the attention of Abeddin Pasha to the proceedings of this notorious person. It is hopeless to look for any real amelioration in the lot of the people of the province, so long as he is allowed to exercise the system of terrorism which he appears to have established.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 250.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 163.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.*

I HAVE to request that you will call the attention of Abeddin Pasha to the state of affairs described in Captain Clayton's despatch to Major Trotter No. 15 of the 4th ultimo, which was forwarded to me in Sir H. Layard's despatch No. 562 of the 1st May.

The Kurds who were exiled from the Province of Van, on account of their misdeeds, by Abeddin Pasha when he was Vali, have been allowed to return, and some of them are reported to have been concerned in the recent attack on two villages between the districts of Moks and Snort.

Abeddin Pasha must, from his experience of the district, be well aware of the terror caused by the presence of such notorious evil-doers as the Kurds whom he had himself banished, and his Excellency should use his influence to secure their removal from that part of the country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 251.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 186.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, June 30, 1880.*

I AM glad to learn from your despatch No. 37 of the 14th instant that the Defterdar of Angora, who was dismissed from his post at the request of Her Majesty's Government, has left Angora.

A watch should be kept on the future career of Husni Effendi, and your Excellency should make representations against his employment in any position which would give him the power of again insulting British subjects.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 252.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Earl Granville.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 34. Political.)
My Lord, *Beyrout, June 21, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch No. 46 of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting on the departure of Raef Effendi, Governor of Beyrout, for Constantinople, in order to confer with His Majesty the Sultan in regard to the plenary powers Midhat Pasha desires for introducing reforms into Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

Inclosure in No. 252.

Acting Consul-General Dickson to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 46.)
Sir, *Beyrout, June 21, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Excellency's information, that Raef Effendi, Governor of Beyrout, leaves to-day for Constantinople by the Austrian Lloyd's steamer, in order to confer with His Majesty the Sultan in regard to the reforms that Midhat Pasha wishes to introduce into Syria. When his Highness, a few days ago, tendered his resignation, His Majesty the Sultan refused to accept it, and requested that he would send some one to Constantinople who would consult with His Majesty as to the plenary powers that his Highness desired in order to make these reforms. Midhat Pasha accordingly selected for this purpose Raef Effendi, with whom he has been long acquainted, and whose

liberal views and ideas of progress well fit him for the task he undertakes. Raef Effendi has served his Government for a period of about thirty years, and has a large experience in the East. During the last three and a-half years that he has been Governor of Beyrout he has, on the whole, given great satisfaction, and is liked by the inhabitants.

I am not aware of the details of the reforms that his Highness Midhat Pasha intends to lay before the Sultan for his acceptance, but, as far as I could gather from his conversation, the principle of the alterations he proposes to make is that, in introducing new laws or regulations into a province, the manners and customs, habits and prejudices, of the people should first be consulted. In a country inhabited by so many different races and sects as Syria there seems to be good reason for the argument put forward by his Highness if proper government is to be secured to the inhabitants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN DICKSON.

No. 253.

Vice-Consul Jago to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 3.)

(No. 8. Political.)
Damascus, June 20, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the copy of my despatch of this day's date to Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte on the subject of Midhat Pasha's resignation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

Inclosure in No. 253.

Vice-Consul Jago to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 12.)
Damascus, June 20, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10 of the 6th instant on the subject of Midhat Pasha's resignation, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that Raef Effendi, Governor of Beyrout, proceeds to Constantinople to-morrow, by the steamer conveying this despatch, to present to the Sultan, in accordance with His Majesty's request, Midhat Pasha's plan of those reforms which his Highness considers necessary for the better government of Syria.

The Sultan having also, I am told, requested Midhat Pasha's opinion as to the best means of extricating the Empire from its present difficulties, Raef Effendi is charged to convey verbally to His Majesty his Highness' views on the subject.

Pending the result of Raef Effendi's mission, his Highness has naturally decided to remain at his post, although some doubt is expressed as to whether it is not a pretext to gain time.

The request of the Sultan for his Highness' opinion on the present difficulties of Turkey is held, it would seem, to warrant hopes of the latter's speedy recall to power.

Midhat Pasha left Damascus for Beyrout on the 14th instant, leaving Edhem Pasha, the Mutessarif, as Acting Governor-General of the vilayet during his absence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOS. S. JAGO.

No. 254.

Mr. Boyajian to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 3.)

E
(Confidential.)
8, *Adam Street, Strand, July* 1, 1880.

My Lord,

DURING the interview that your Lordship was kind enough to accord to me, you desired me to furnish your Lordship with the boundary of the proposed province in Armenia in which the Christians are very numerous. In complying with this request, I take the liberty to present my views about some points connected with this subject, which I wish to submit to your Lordship's consideration.

1. The present division of the provinces in Armenia is such that no one of them contains a sufficient number of Christians that it can safely be put under a Christian Governor, as the nomad Kurds generally live in the mountainous parts of the country, and Christians, being agriculturalists, live mostly in the plains, it will be best to take such parts of the provinces of Erzeroum, Van, Bitlis and Diarbekir and form them into a new province, having Erzeroum or Van for the capital. In this proposed province the Christians, mostly Armenians, are very numerous, if not the majority.

2. Over this province it will be desirable to have a Christian Governor-General, with a Mahommedan Assistant-Governor. The sub-Governors may be of the two religions according to the majority of the sub-provinces. The two first named Governors should be irremovable for a term of years, and I think it will be advisable for the present to have a European as Governor-General, as the Mahommedans would be reluctant to obey the orders of a native Christian.

3. The civil law of the Turkish Government is good enough on the whole, but a few changes are needed to suit it to the local requirements, such as the regulation concerning the gathering taxes and tithes.

4. A strong body of gendarmerie should be organized under a European officer. Measures should be taken to protect the province from the incursions of the Kurds and Circassians.

5. The judges should be appointed equally from the Turks and Christians.

6. From 15 to 20 per cent. of the revenue may be sent to the Imperial Treasury, and the rest will be sufficient for local expenses, public works, and education.

7. It will be advisable to make provision that Mahommedans in migrating from this province to another one, and Armenians and other Christians from provinces to this one, be allowed to do so without hinderance.

8. The Kurds are said to hold 50,000 breech-loaders belonging to the Turkish Government; those ought to be called in by the Government as soon as possible.

9. Both for this and for any reforms throughout other provinces the united European supervision is most essential, without which no arrangement can be considered as permanent.

In submitting this to your Lordship's kind consideration, I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS BOYAJIAN,
Lately Acting Vice-Consul at Diarbekir.

P.S.—Accompanying this is a map with the boundary of the proposed province roughly marked.

T. B.

No. 255.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 207.)
Foreign Office, July 3, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 64 of the 21st instant, inclosing Reports from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Van of the depredations committed by the Kurds on the Turco-Persian frontier, and I approve the steps you have taken in addressing a further representation to the Porte on this subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 256.

Abeddin Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, July* 7.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 5 Juillet, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de répondre à la partie de la note identique du 11 Juin qui a trait aux stipulations de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin. Voici le texte de cette note:—

"J'ai l'honneur de répondre à la partie de la note du 11 Juin de votre Excellence qui a trait aux stipulations de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin, stipulations énoncées dans le dernier paragraphe du même Article.

"En dépit des préoccupations et des difficultés de tout genre résultant de la guerre, le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman a toujours eu présent à la pensée l'exécution de ces clauses, et envoyé dans toutes les parties du Kurdistan et dans d'autres vilayets plusieurs fonctionnaires compétents dont la mission consiste à rechercher les moyens les plus

efficaces pour assurer la sécurité tant des Arméniens que des autres sujets fidèles de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, à indiquer enfin le mode d'application des mêmes moyens, en exécutant eux-mêmes quelques mesures rentrant dans leurs attributions. Outre ces Commissions, on n'ignore pas non plus que dans un court espace de temps le Gouvernement Ottoman a décrété la séparation des Tribunaux Nizamié du pouvoir exécutif, conformément à ce qui se pratique en Europe; qu'il s'efforce encore de leur donner une bonne organisation et de faire partout les expériences nécessaires tendant à établir un nouveau mode de perception des impôts et de la dîme, afin d'assurer le repos et la tranquillité des populations; qu'il a enfin commencé à instituer la gendarmerie et la police dans certaines localités, en chargeant plusieurs officiers spéciaux indigènes et étrangers de présenter des Projets de Lois sur ces deux institutions, et en prenant en considération tout ce qui contribuerait à leur succès.

"Il résulte de ces enquêtes que, parmi les réformes les plus appropriées au caractère et aux besoins des populations, celles reconnues à l'heure qu'il est comme les plus urgentes et efficaces consistent en l'organisation et en la répartition des nahiés (communes), ainsi qu'en la création de Cours d'Assises.

"Je crois donc opportun d'entrer dans quelques détails relativement à ces deux points qui sont destinés à garantir d'une manière sûre et certaine l'ordre et la sécurité publique.

"Chaque district (caza) sera divisé en communes, qui comprendront à leur tour des groupes de villages rapprochés les uns des autres.

"Les Conseils Communaux seront élus par les populations, et le Gouvernement nommera l'un des Conseillers Administrateurs de la commune, lesquels, investis de certaines attributions se rattachant au pouvoir exécutif, relèveront des Sous-Préfets (Caïmacams), et ces Administrateurs cumuleront également les fonctions municipales. Ils doivent appartenir au culte de la majorité . . . . . professant le culte de la minorité. Ils seront dans l'exercice de leurs fonctions assistés par un Conseil Mixte, composé de quatre à six membres, issus du suffrage de la population. Les susdits Administrateurs et Conseils des Communes seront nommés pour la première fois seulement par les Conseils Administratifs des Sous-Préfectures, lesquels auront à les choisir parmi les habitants des localités respectives.

"Chaque Administrateur aura sous ses ordres une gendarmerie dont le nombre pourra être augmenté en proportion des besoins réels de la localité. Cette force armée sera chargée d'assurer l'ordre et la sécurité de la commune, de mettre en état d'arrestation les malfaiteurs et les vagabonds et de protéger les habitants contre toute violence et vexation. Chaque brigade de gendarmes pourra requérir l'aide et la co-opération de celles des autres communes pour agir ensemble et réussir dans la poursuite des brigands.

"Outre les Agents mentionnés ci-dessus, il sera organisé dans chaque province, en vertu d'un Règlement spécial, un corps de gendarmes provincial, dont les officiers et soldats seront choisis parmi toutes les classes des sujets de l'Empire, et qui sera placé sous les ordres du Gouverneur-Général (Vali) pour être mis à la disposition des Préfets (Mutessarifs) et des Sous-Préfets (Caïmacams). Il aura pour Commandants des officiers expérimentés, et donnera aide et assistance chaque fois qu'il en sera requis aux gendarmes se trouvant dans les communes.

"Il ne saurait entrer dans le cadre de la présente note d'énumérer tous les avantages que comporte l'organisation qui précède. Il me suffit de constater ici qu'elle sera également un moyen efficace pour augmenter le nombre des écoles communales, amener le progrès de l'agriculture, et améliorer les voies de communication par les soins . . . . . et des Conseils de Commune.

"La même expérience faite dans un des districts du Vilayét de Salonique a produit dans un bref délai les meilleurs résultats au grande contentement de la population locale. Une telle mesure aura donc pour effet principal d'asseoir sur des bases solides la sécurité publique et individuelle.

"Un autre moyen puissant pour garantir cette sécurité c'est, comme nous l'avons dit, l'institution des Cours d'Assises. Ces Tribunaux auront à tour de rôle à parcourir les districts où leur présence sera prouvée nécessaire et à y juger les crimes. Un tel mode de procéder offre de très grands avantages, attendu que l'instruction et le jugement sur les lieux se feront avec beaucoup plus de facilité que si la cause devait être soumise aux cours criminelles sédentaires dans les sandjaks; car il arrive toujours que les personnes dont le témoignage est reconnu indispensable se refusent à comparaître devant ces dernières et même à se constituer comme témoins, à cause de la grande distance, des difficultés de communication, de la perte de temps et des dépenses considérables, toutes choses qui entravent forcément le cours de la justice.

"Le Gouvernement Ottoman a déjà admis aux fonctions publiques des personnes

capables et honnêtes sans distinction de culte. Désormais ce fait recevra une plus large application encore, et la Sublime Porte tiendra la main à ce qu'il se traduise bientôt par des actes.

"Une autre mesure toute aussi importante s'impose à la sollicitude du Gouvernement Impérial; c'est celle de veiller attentivement au progrès de l'instruction et des travaux publics, cause principale du bonheur d'un pays. En conséquence, abstraction faite des revenus des Douanes, du sel et du tabac de chaque vilayet, ainsi que de ceux des fondations pieuses (evcafs), dont la gestion relève des Conseils des Communes, un dixième sera retenu sur le reliquat des dépenses affectées au service administratif du vilayet, dépenses fournies par les autres revenus généraux du même vilayet, et devra à partir de l'année prochaine être mis à la disposition du vilayet pour le service de l'instruction et des travaux publics. Il va sans dire que cette allocation spéciale sera élevée au fur et à mesure que les revenus de l'Etat auront augmenté.

"Un règlement complet concernant les vilayets, règlement basé sur l'expérience et les enquêtes faites sur les lieux, est à l'étude. Il recevra bientôt une application générale dans toutes les provinces de la Turquie d'Asie. De même, les attributions des . . . . . seront précisées et leurs fonctions garanties.

"Tels sont, M. l'Ambassadeur, les points principaux des règlements spéciaux qui vont être mis en vigueur.

"En portant ce qui précède à votre connaissance, il m'est pénible d'avoir à constater ici que chaque fois que des crimes de droit commun, dont la perpétration est naturelle dans tous les pays du monde, viennent à se commettre dans les localités habitées aussi par des Arméniens, des esprits passionnés semblent s'être donné pour mission d'inventer des crimes imaginaires et de les ajouter à ceux-là, en les représentant comme réels aux yeux de l'Europe et des Consuls résidant sur les lieux.

"En terminant, je puis affirmer d'une manière catégorique et précise à votre Excellence que le recensement officiel des populations Arméniennes de Van, de Diarbékir, de Bitlis, d'Erzeroum, et de Sivas a donné le résultat suivant: le chiffre de ces dernières s'élève à 17 pour cent, celui des autres communautés non-Musulmanes à 4 pour cent, et celui des habitants Musulmans à 79 pour cent de la population.

"Je crois enfin superflu de déclarer que la Sublime Porte donnera avis aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin des mesures prises par elle pour l'introduction successive des réformes dans les Provinces du Kurdistan et de l'Anatolie, habitées aussi par des Arméniens.

No. 257.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 8.)

(No. 18. Political.)

Sir,

Van, May 14, 1880.

I HAVE received a letter from the Armenian Archbishop of Van informing me that, according to letters received by the last mail from the Patriarchate in Constantinople, the Vali of Van had made complaints to the Porte of the Archbishop, and had demanded his dismissal and exile from Van, and that a memorandum to this effect had been sent by the Porte to the Patriarchate at Constantinople.

The Vali's grounds of complaint were, firstly, that the Archbishop, with his people, had gone out to meet the Vice-Consuls of Russia and England on their arrival at Van; secondly, that he had attended an objectionable theatrical performance; and thirdly, most important of all, that he is too intimate with the foreign Vice-Consuls, incites the Armenian people to discontent, and encourages them to go and report their condition and make their complaints to the Vice-Consuls.

As regards the first charge, the facts are these: When Major Kamsaragan, the Russian Vice-Consul, arrived here about a week before I did, the Archbishop, with a large crowd of Armenians, went out to meet him. When my approach was announced the Vali, who was on bad terms with the Archbishop on account of a previous affair, sent for him, and said that he did not wish the Archbishop or Armenians to go out to meet me, that the Vice-Consuls were not of sufficient importance for such a demonstration. The Archbishop replied that he looked not to their personal rank, but to their being Representatives of two great European Powers, that if the Vali gave him an order in writing not to go out he would obey it, but that if he did not receive such an order he would go out. No such order was received, and the Archbishop, with his people, came to meet me.

As regards the second charge, in the beginning of March an amateur theatrical

performance took place in aid of those suffering from famine, under the patronage of Major Kamsaragan and myself. We wrote letters to the Pashas and principal inhabitants, including the Archbishop, inviting them to attend. One of the pieces played was a farce caricaturing village life in Armenia. In the course of the piece a Kurd or Bashi-Bazouk was introduced who knocked the villagers about. Every care, as we supposed, had been taken to avoid hurting the delicate susceptibilities of the Turks. "Long live the Sultan" was inscribed on the proscenium, and the character I have alluded to, who in the original piece was a zaptieh, was changed to a Bashi-Bazouk lest any insult to the Government might be suspected. And a venal Armenian priest was one of the characters, a far greater libel than the Bashi-Bazouk. However, though Yussuf Pasha and the other Turks seemed to be only amused by the performance, the Vali seems foolishly to have taken offence. In any case, Major Kamsaragan and myself are responsible, not the Archbishop, who only came at our invitation.

As regards the third and most important charge, the Turks are extremely displeased at foreign interference, and would be only too glad if they could prevent information of what goes on from reaching the Vice-Consuls. The Archbishop has no doubt been very active in advocating the cause of his people before the Government, and in giving information about what goes on to Major Kamsaragan and myself, but I do not think he can be accused of stirring up the people, more than sympathy with them and reprobation of Turkish misrule, which one can hardly blame him for showing, may do so. But the Turks no doubt wish to prevent the knowledge of the condition of the country from reaching the ears of Europe, and they therefore wish an example to be made of the Archbishop in order to terrify others.

I may mention that the Archbishop has not been entirely popular among his own people, I hardly know why.

It does not appear right that a man should be victimized whose principal if not only crime is zeal in the cause of his much oppressed people.

Since commencing this despatch I have received intelligence that an election has been held, and the Armenians have chosen the ex-Patriarch Chrimian as head of their community here in place of the Archbishop Eremiah, who has been performing the duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 258.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 8.)

(No. 19. Political.)
Sir,

Van, May 18, 1880.

TO-DAY a large body of refugees arrived from some villages in the neighbourhood of Bashkalah in a state of utter destitution, reporting that Ali Khan had made another raid and entirely stripped their villages. Another large deputation, also, has come from El Jivas, bringing a petition signed both by Turks and Christians, and countersigned by the Kaïmakam, to beg for aid, as the Kurds called Torounli, a branch of the Haidaranli tribe, have come down, encamped themselves in the fields of young corn, on which they pasture their flocks, and are robbing houses, villages, and mills in all directions. The Government is, I believe, waking up to the conviction that it must try and do something, but it has not the means of effective repression in all the directions in which the Kurds are plundering.

The pressure of famine is also increasing, and the price of corn has nearly doubled itself within the last few days. I was asked to-day 2½ Turkish liras per "chap" for some, a price equivalent to about 30*s.* a bushel.

The Commissioners also told me to-day that they had received information that the Mutessarif of Mush had been giving corn from the Government stores to the Mufti, Cadi, and other rich and influential persons, while not distributing a grain to the poor, and making difficulties about sending what has been asked for by Van.

Some corn, however, appears to be on the way here from Mush, but after so many disappointments I shall hardly believe in it until it actually arrives.

With respect to the robbery of the caravan coming from Persia, which I mentioned in my despatch No. 17, Political, the Commissioners informed me to-day that the less serious version of the affair was substantially correct, that there had been no combat, and no one was killed; and that most of the stolen property had been recovered and the principal culprits arrested.

I have heard that Sheikh Obeyd Ullah has been seriously ill, but is now better, and that all the surrounding Chiefs have met at his residence, ostensibly to condole with him on his illness, but it is suspected with some ulterior object also.

Continual reports come in also of murders by Kurds, generally of persons who have obtained a little corn and are carrying it home.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 259.

Captain Stewart to Sir A. H. Layard.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 8.)

(No. 13. Political.)
Sir,

Amasia, May 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that to-day I forwarded to Her Britannic Majesty's Consul-General for Anatolia the following telegram:—

"Council here declined to accept candidates nominated for Province Council, and forwarded remonstrance to Sivas. No answer has been received. Will write full details. Matter important. Vali exerting pressure to procure election of old ring."

2. In my previous despatches I have already informed your Excellency that the new Vali, Hakki Pasha, had, immediately on his arrival at Sivas, given orders for the elections of the different Councils to take place. A list of candidates was drawn up and, notwithstanding my urgent remonstrance, the names of Mehemet Ali and the other members of the old Medjliss were put down. With the exception of the Armenian Bishop at Sivas, these lists were accepted and signed in due course by those local officials whose approval was necessary.

3. In passing through Tocat I gathered that the official candidates had been accepted, notwithstanding that the usual complaints were made against the best-known individuals amongst them, no one having had the courage to oppose their re-election.

4. At Amasia, on the other hand, the people, from the Pasha down, appear to have resolutely set their face against this attempt at dictation on the part of the Sivas authorities. The Idaré Medjliss unanimously declined to affix their signatures to the Mazbata, and, with but one exception, signed a memorial to the Vali, stating that, according to law, the elections for the cazas and sandjaks should precede those for the vilayet, also that, as the Armenian Bishop had not affixed his signature to the document forwarded, they declined to recognize it. No answer has been returned to this memorial, but I am informed [?] is coming from Constantinople to investigate the matter.

5. As the Consul-General for Anatolia is now in Constantinople, it is unnecessary for me to point out to your Excellency the great importance of destroying the ascendency of a gang whose practical power has so long proved superior to that of Valis and Sub-Governors, and to whose will all Courts, officials, classes, and interests have been long subservient.

6. I inclose documents (in Turkish) relative to the affair. In the originals, opposite the space assigned for the Armenian Bishop's signature by seal, was a note to the effect that the matter had been discussed, and that after the discussion all the members of the Medjliss were agreed that the omission of his signature was due to the fact of his not having his seal with him. This misstatement is of some significance, as from conversation with the Bishop at Sivas I am in a position to affirm that his refusal to sign was intentional and distinct.

7. I am informed by a member of the Idaré Medjliss here that the document relating to the elections was forwarded from Sivas by special messenger, and that prior to his arrival several telegrams were received enjoining its immediate confirmation and return. On the envelope inclosing it were inscribed directions as to its immediate return duly signed. The time of the messenger's departure from Sivas was also given, and an order to report his arrival by telegraph. I can hardly say whether this statement is at all exaggerated, but the inference of undue arbitrary pressure will be evident to your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. H. STEWART.

No. 260.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 8.)

(No. 6. Consular.)

Erzeroum, June 11, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to inclose you a Report which I have received from Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart, of the Bengal Staff Corps, written on the 11th May, from the neighbourhood of Bayazid.

He appears to have found everywhere great distress, here and there a case of death said to have been caused by starvation, and great mortality among the sheep and cattle; but the cry for seed seems to have been greater than any other.

It is certain that this appeal has not been responded to in these districts to an extent that will insure the future safety of the population. A fortnight ago, the Government were selling from the Government stores in the district of Chynys a certain quantity of wheat for this purpose to the people of Alashgerd. It was sold at 100 piastres the somar. Although I have no wish to underrate any efforts that the Government may make to alleviate the distress, yet I think the distribution to which I am alluding will be more beneficial to the Government than to the people. Having received a sample of this wheat which weighed 20 drams, I separated all the perfectly rotten grain, together with straw and grit, from those which might perhaps be productive, and weighed them. The refuse weighed 6·7 drams, so that the dead loss to the people is about 13½ botmans in every somar (12 bushels) of 40 botmans. The remainder may grow, but in the opinion of a native wheat merchant to whom I sent it, it is not likely. I forwarded the sample to the Vali for his inspection.

The Armenians who bought wheat in Bulanik have at last succeeded, I am told, in passing a portion into Alashgerd, but I fear it must have arrived too late for sowing. Beyond these contributions, and the little we have sown ourselves, I know of none else, so that I am forced to share the opinion of Colonel Stewart, and to believe with him that a worse famine is in prospect. At present it is the Turks and Kurds who are suffering the most, but I have this day completed arrangements for a limited amount of relief, and to-morrow some 25 somars will start for the districts.

The accounts from Chynys sent back by Mr. Baldwin, American missionary, show that much distress is to be found there, and that nearly all the villages have sown far under the average.

Here, as in all the districts where there is dearth, the inhabitants are living largely on wild herbs, but this method of nourishment must soon come to an end. Already the herbs are becoming so rank as to produce illness when eaten, later on they will dry up.

Up to the present time there is every prospect of a magnificent harvest, a great deal of rain having fallen at the moment when it was most required. Things have improved here greatly. Wheat has fallen from £ T. 10 to £ T. 8 the somar in consequence of large arrivals from the westward.

In addition to 300*l.* which I have received, but which unfortunately came too late for sowing, £. T. 500 have been sent through the Ottoman Bank to Mr. Cole, American missionary, and would already be on its way to Alashgerd, converted into grain, but for the difficulties which are being raised by the Vali, who, up to the present time, has refused to work with Mr. Cole, the agent appointed by the Ottoman Bank, or to recognize his instructions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure in No. 260.

Report by Lieutenant-Colonel Stewart, Bengal Staff, on the State of the Country between Erzeroum and the Persian Frontier, near Bayazid, as regards Cultivation and Famine.

I LEFT Erzeroum *en route* for Tabreez on the 3rd May, and was asked by Captain Everett, the Vice-Consul at Erzeroum, to furnish any information I could gather on the road as to the state of the crops, and the famine between Erzeroum and Bayazid.

The first day I went to Hassan-Kaleh, a distance of 19 miles. I only saw two fields which had apparently been sown in the whole of this distance, though the country is naturally fertile, and only requires seed to be sown; where seed is sown there is every promise of a fine crop. I made no inquiries at Hassan-Kaleh, as

Captain Everett had informed me that he knew all particulars as to this town. I may, however, remark that there was hardly any crop to be seen at this place.

2. At Kopri-Keui, the next place on the road, there was more cultivation than I had seen in any place since leaving Erzeroum. In fact, with small exceptions, it was the first cultivation I had met with; a good deal of ploughing was going on, and some fields showed young wheat springing up.

3. I stayed the second day at Amrakom, a Turkish village. I was informed that the people were very badly off, that two men, two women, and six children had died in the village from famine within one month. The last death from starvation had taken place five days previous to my arrival. The name of the deceased was Ahmed. In this village, which usually sows 400 somars of grain, they had this year sown only from 24 to 27 somars. They had received no seed from the Government up to the 4th May. Some of their people were away in Erzeroum trying to get grain, but as yet had received none.

4. The third day I stayed in the Armenian village of Deli-Baba. Hardly any grain had been sown in this village, about 15 somars instead of 400. Great want prevailed, but no death from actual starvation had taken place. The people were eating grass and wild herbs to help out their bread. I myself saw grass being prepared for cooking, at the house of the Headman of the village.

5. At Dahir, the next village, inhabited by Kurds, hardly any seed had been sown, and no food for the horses was procurable. I went on to an Armenian village, Zedikhan; great want prevailed here. Ten deaths from starvation were said to have taken place within one month, mostly children; two men had died of starvation. Only 16 somars of wheat and barley had been sown instead of 600 somars. A little help in money had been received from the Armenian Committee at Erzeroum. No seed received from the Government.

6. I only stayed one hour at Mollah-Suleiman; great want prevailed, but there were no deaths from starvation in the town itself, but many in the neighbouring villages; very little seed had been sown. My informants at this place were the Yuzbashi commanding the cavalry and the Armenian Catholic priest. I went viâ Toprak-Kaleh and Alashguerd to Kara-Kilissa, the usual road being flooded. There was hardly any cultivation to be seen. At Alashguerd I was informed that only some 15 somars of wheat had been sown, instead of 300, and that no seed had been received from the Government. There were no deaths from starvation, but great want of food. Some of the people had gone off to Russian territory (about fifteen), and more would do so. Some little help had been received in money for the Armenians from the Armenian Committee at Erzeroum.

7. The fifth day I arrived at Kara-Kilissa; great want prevailed, but there were no deaths from starvation; very little grain had been sown.

8. Sixth day, Passin-Keui; great want, bread procurable with difficulty, and then 20 piastres per oke of 2¾ lbs. Three deaths from starvation within a month said to have taken place. The distress seems greater at this place than any other I have passed through.

9. Seventh day, Diadin; distress great, no wheat or bread procurable at any price; barley bread 15 piastres per oke; no deaths from starvation. Though the distress is great in all places I have passed through, it seems always rather less in places where there is a Kaïmakam, or some authority to make arrangements for food for the people.

10. My opinion is that a very much greater famine is impending over the country than that which at present exists, as hardly any crop can be reaped in the autumn, so little grain having been sown. Only at one small village, Toda-serein, in the Passin Plain, did I see anything like the promise of a good crop. There 10 somars were said to have been sown. Besides the actual dearth of grain, a very large number of the cattle and sheep have died from the effects of the severe winter. At the village of Deli-Baba, where the people were most cheery under their privations, I was informed that 2,000 sheep and cattle had died since the autumn, and the very great number of bodies of animals about the place rendered the statement probable. The Turkish Government should be urged to distribute seed, which it has not done, and that without delay, as the time for sowing is fast passing away. The distress at Bayazid is said to be the same as at Diadin. I pass to-morrow within one hour and a half of Bayazid. This Report has been written with difficulty, as I have no table or proper writing apparatus.

(Signed) C. E. STEWART.

No. 261.

Captain Everett to Major Trotter.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, July 8.*)

(No. 17. Political.)

Erzeroum, June 12, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to inclose, at the request of those who have signed it, a petition from Durman, district of Keghi. It is principally a repetion of former grievances, to which is now added (1) a sense of despair, resulting from their inability to obtain justice at the hands of the Tribunals here; and (2) great regret for the loss of Mehemet Ali Bey, their former Kaïmakam.

On the first of these two complaints I have written enough, and with regard to the second, having entered the protest, I now await the further instructions requested in my despatch No. 14, Political, of the 30th April.

In the meantime the new Kaïmakam, Hamid Bey, a native of Kars, and a man notorious for his incapacity, has arrived at his post and commenced his duties. Mehemet Ali Bey still lingers on here, and calls now and again to know if there is any hope for him.

His dismissal is certainly greatly to be regretted; for his district was the only one that I know of where there were no complaints from the Christians of injustice.

Mehemet Ali Bey was, perhaps, the one competent official that I am acquainted with who might have been left in his post when real reforms should have commenced in this country. Since his removal has been effected by the Vali, regardless of the decision of the Idaré Medjliss, who refused to find any fault with him, you may judge to what extent the Governor-General of this vilayet is desirous of bettering the state of the country.

It is not true that the other Beys are shortly to be returned to Keghi, as feared by the petitioners; their cases remain exactly as they were many months ago.

Further inquiries as to the outrage by the soldiery in the village Yenikeui, district of Chynys, mentioned in my despatch No. 16, Political, show incontestably that the people, including women and one child, were treated with great brutality by the soldiers. I have reported the matter to the Vali.

The depredations of the Circassians in this district continue unchecked, in fact there is no security either for the life or property of the Christians. From a letter forwarded by a Protestant to one of the missionaries here, the soldiers appear to behave with almost equal rapacity, taking by force everthing they require, and beating unmercifully when they cannot obtain the supplies asked for.

If the removal of Iskander Bey, the Kaïmakam of Chynys, could be obtained, it would be a great boon to this unfortunate district. I understand that he is forcing the Christians who kept the cattle of the refugees during the winter to pay T. £ 1 for every head that has died. Owing to the great scarcity of forage, there has naturally been considerable mortality amongst the cattle, and this forced compensation is sorely felt by the people in these bad times.

The influx of Kurds to this city still continues, and has doubtless brought a number of desperate characters into the neighbourhood. A few evenings ago an Armenian was robbed, stripped, and murdered on the high road, just outside the gates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WILLIAM EVERETT.

Inclosure in No. 261.

Petition.

(Translation.)

Keghi, Village of Durman, May 20, 1880.

Excellent and Beneficent Sir,

FIRST of all, let us offer you our most sincere and heartfelt thanks. We know and feel that your efforts for us, which you made in order to cause the dawn of reform to shine on the sad lot of the oppressed Armenian people of Keghi, were very great. We are unable to recompense you for your kindness; we can only pray God that He may reward you from His abundant treasures. We annoyed you, indeed, and caused you much trouble, which was not right of us. But what could we do? To whom should we have recourse? We have no protecting hand to turn to but yours. For God's sake have mercy and compassion on the poor people of Keghi. You are already

aware how the Beys of Keghi have enslaved us like the Egyptians did the children of Israel, possibly even more. They have sacked and exhausted us. We presented protests both to the authorities at Keghi and Erzeroum; we have been examined with the defendants in the Tribunals of Justice at Erzeroum. Our representatives in Erzeroum gave protests; they waited and waited, and their cries not being heard, they came back in despair. Already poor, we expended all that was left to us on these cases, and more, contracting debts. But notwithstanding these things the Beys, being protected, some returned, and the others, we have heard, will come back on a few days.

These men have taken by force our pastures, forests, fields, springs of water, and meadows, and they have compelled us to work both Sundays and week-days without payment.

Beneficent Sir, if these Beys return it will be impossible for us to live in this district, because, in addition to the deprivation of our rights, we shall now also be deprived of our lives. Either the Beys must live here or else ourselves, the poor community. Therefore, we beg you most fervently to show us a course to take. As a matter of information, we may observe that in this district there is much poverty, want, and hunger. Robbers, too, have commenced pillaging from the houses, and carrying off the goods of the poor. From the time when Keghi was made a Kaïmakamlik, it never had so good a Kaïmakam as Mehmed Ali Bey. They removed him because he acted as the father of our district; he has ever looked to the interests of the poor, and has ever upheld their rights. Therefore, we beg you to do all in your power to send Mehmed Ali Bey here again. Other Kaïmakams do not possess sufficient influence to govern the district in accordance with the laws of the Government.

Beneficent Sir, we beg of you to communicate this petition to the liberal Government of England.

Ever praying for you, we remain, &c.

(Signed by Johannes, principal representative of the oppressed villages, and 13 others).

No. 262.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Mr. Goschen.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, July 8.*)

(No. 75.)

Angora, June 19, 1880.

Sir,

I BEG to inform your Excellency that a plague of locusts has begun, doing much damage to this unfortunate province.

The districts of Mohalliteh and Beybazar telegraph the Governor-General that one-fourth of the growing crops have been already destroyed, and the destruction still continuing. The prices of all sorts of grain have greatly risen in consequence. The populace of these districts appeal to the Government to send duly consecrated Imaums with "Yabanova water," a spring well in connection with which there is a curious Moslem superstition, in the belief of which the Christians, however, share.

It is most firmly believed that if this water is put in a clean vessel, carried without touching soil or any impurity by men of blameless lives, and hung up in the mosque, with the appropriate ablutions and prayers, that great flocks of a species of starling will immediately appear, and, attacking the locusts, destroy or drive them away. The truth is that this kind of starling comes to Asia Minor every year, but is very shy, and unless in large numbers is not observed. They certainly attack and destroy the locusts, and exterminate them most effectually wherever there is running water. They only desist from the work of slaughter to wash their bills and feet, and resume.

They have made their appearance in several places this year, but, so far, in insufficient numbers. Should larger flocks arrive, the province will be saved from what threatens to be a very severe scourge.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 263.

Vice-Consul Bennet to Mr. Goschen.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 8.)

(No. 1.)
Kaisariyeh, June 16, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I arrived at Kaisariyeh yesterday after an eighteen days' journey from Brusa, two of which were spent in Angora.

I travelled by way of Ainegol, Eskishehr, Sivri Hissar, Angora, and Kir Schehr, a route which is practicable to arabas.

The country generally I found in a satisfactory state; the crops are late, but promise well, and there was no distress to speak of along the road. Prices were, of course, high. Robbers are complained of between Brusa and Angora; between Ainegol and Basardchik a cavalry patrol, consisting of an officer and twelve men, had been established for the last six months to preserve order in that mountainous and wooded district, and things were reported to be in a better state. About a fortnight or three weeks before my arrival at Eskishehr a notorious highwayman (Turk), a man who was said to have committed more than one murder and robbery, had been surprised and shot by the police on his resisting capture; the body was brought into Eskishehr and exhibited for two days at the konak, a summary proceeding which seems to have produced a great effect. In the same district, near the small village of Bosuk, I came across an old man whose two oxen had been stolen the night before, presumably by Circassians.

As a rule, the Circassians are credited with all lawless acts, and in many places the villagers are afraid to leave their flocks and herds out at night; but, judging from the few authenticated instances I heard of, I am of opinion that the people are suffering from nervous apprehension rather than actual outrage. On this side of Angora there were no complaints of robbers.

In the neighbourhood of Eskishehr I came across large quantities of locusts, which seem very threatening this year, and I was informed that partly on account of the damage done by these pests to the crops last year, and partly on account of the paucity of oxen to plough the land, owing to so many having died during the past severe winter, so much corn as usual had not been sown.

The zaptiehs (police force) are in a deplorable state, their clothes little better than rags, and their pay in arrear; it is impossible but that the corps must contain many doubtful characters, and must continue to deteriorate unless steps are shortly taken to ameliorate their condition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FERDINAND BENNET.

No. 264.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

(No. 82.)
Therapia, June 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship the copy of a despatch from Major Warlow reporting a visit he has lately paid to the Province of Kastamouni. The kidnapping case to which he refers formed the subject of Lord Salisbury's despatch to Sir H. Layard No. 1490 of the 18th December last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

Inclosure in No. 264.

Major Warlow to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 6.)
Incholi, June 23, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that, in accordance with instructions received from Colonel Wilson, Consul-General of Anatolia, I left Constantinople early on Saturday morning (5th instant) for Kastamouni, the object of my journey being to present my Berat and travelling Firman to the Vali of that province for

registration, and to inquire what steps had been taken to obtain justice in the case of kidnapping a woman and her two children, reported to your Excellency by Mr. Vice-Consul Gilbertson in his despatch No 1, dated Brusa, 21st November, 1879.

2. The Austrian Lloyd's steamer landed me at Incholi on Sunday morning (6th instant), and early on Monday I set out for Kastamouni, where I arrived on following evening.

3. On Wednesday (9th) I presented my Berat to the Vali, his Excellency Ghalib Pasha, at an official visit, which he returned on Thursday morning. On the afternoon of that day I called on him by appointment, and ascertained that, some months ago, he had sent orders to the Mutessarif of Boli to make a thorough inquiry into the charge of kidnapping, and to bring the offenders to justice; that he had not received any Report on the subject, or taken any further action, and that he did not know anything more about it. On hearing this I suggested the immediate dispatch of a telegram, calling for full Report, and one was accordingly sent off; but I was told that an answer could not be expected for several days, as reference would have to be made to the Kaïmakam of Dusdscheh, at which place the telegraphic arrangements were in a very defective state.

4. In the course of conversation his Excellency mentioned that Jambollit Bey, one of the accused, was a man of high position, possessing much influence as well at Constantinople as amongst the Circassians in the neighbourhood of Dusdscheh, where he resides, and it seems very probable that the Turkish authorities are unable or unwilling to call him to account.

5. No answer to the Vali's telegram having been received up to the 16th instant, a second telegram was dispatched on that day, at my request, urgently demanding a full and immediate Report; but up to the time of my leaving Kastamouni (20th instant), no reply, or even acknowledgment of receipt of order, had been received. On paying my farewell visit to his Excellency the Vali, I reminded him that this case had attracted Lord Salisbury's special attention, and begged him to telegraph to me as soon as he received any Report from the local authorities, hinting at the same time that the delay which had already occurred in bringing the offenders to justice reflected but little credit on his Excellency's administration.

6. As my instructions are to proceed, viâ Constantinople, to Adabazaree as soon as practicable, and as I could do no good by remaining longer at Kastamouni, I left that place on Sunday afternoon (20th) and returned to Incholi.

7. After my work in Adabazaree is done, I propose going to Dusdscheh, and seeing what can be done by stirring up the local authorities about the case referred to above, as I see no other chance of obtaining justice. Even if the offenders are not punished it may be possible to obtain possession of the woman and her children.

8. During my stay at Kastamouni I learnt that further disturbances had been reported from the country round Dusdscheh, where the Circassians are said to be plundering constantly, in consequence of which a party of zaptiehs, under a Lieutenant, had been sent off by forced marches. In other parts of the Vilayet of Kastamouni violent crime is of rare occurrence, and the roads are said to be quite safe; but I fear that this satisfactory state of things is not likely to last, as, in spite of the remonstrances of the Vali, the authorities at Constantinople have reduced the zaptieh force by 117 men (15 per cent.) during the last month.

9. The extreme severity of last winter has destroyed all the early crops and caused great mortality amongst the Angora goats, but so far as I could ascertain there is no great distress in any part of the vilayet, although there has been a considerable rise in prices. The suffering has been greatest amongst the wives and children of the Redif, of whom scarcely one-third have returned from the war. Of those who have been fortunate enough to find their way back to their homes many are broken in health, and all are penniless and in rags. I had a good opportunity of observing their condition, as a party of about 300 men were on board the steamer which brought me from Constantinople; they were landed at Incholi, and I came across many of them on the road between that place and Kastamouni. They told me, and I believe truly, that they had been put on shore with from 10 to 20 piastres per man, to find their way to their villages as best they could, although pay was due to them for two or three years. Many of them had literally nothing to eat, and they were begging bread from travellers and villagers. Under these circumstances, it is greatly to their credit that not a single act of theft or robbery was committed by any one of them. I made particular inquiries on this point on my return journey, as I could hardly believe that a number of half-starving men, with arms in their hands, would resist the temptation of helping themselves to whatever they required.

10. I am happy to be able to report that one reform at least, and that of a very important nature, is actually being commenced at Kastamouni, viz., by introducing what may be termed a permanent settlement in place of the existing system of collecting tithes, which, bad enough in itself, has opened the door to many abuses. The new plan is being tried, as an experiment, in only one caza, under the immediate supervision of the Vali; but, if it succeeds, will gradually be extended to the whole district. In this caza a tithe tax has been fixed calculated on the average amount realized during the last five years, to which 5 per cent. has been added for purposes mentioned below; all land has been divided into five classes, according to the nature of the soil, water supply, &c., and the quantity of each class held by every farmer has been registered, and the amount payable by him has been fixed and will be realized by six-monthly instalments, the first of which will not be demanded until harvest is over. The sum realized by the additional 5 per cent. on yearly average is to be divided into two parts; one of which is to cover cost of collection, which, under the above arrangement, should be very small, and the other is to go towards a famine fund, the keeping of which is to be intrusted to the Council of Elders in the village, and which is to be drawn on only in times of real scarcity. In exceptionally bad years a portion of the fixed tithe will be remitted at the discretion of the Government. Such is the arrangement as explained to me by the Inspector of Tithes, who appeared to take a great interest in it. So far as I am capable of judging, this is a very great step in the right direction, and I only hope that it may be found to work well practically.

11. I am sorry that I am unable to report as favourably of the reforms which are being carried out in the Law Courts. The shortness of my stay prevented me from forming any opinion as to whether the recent changes had tended to check corruption or not, but they do not appear to have lessened the law's delays or to have made justice a less expensive article; their tendency, in fact, appears to be quite in the opposite direction, and the poor man is generally believed to be in a worse position than ever. The fault, however, appears to be in the system itself, which is very complicated, and not in the officials who have to work it.

12. Before closing this despatch I would wish to bring to your Excellency's notice the state of the prison here, which is very deplorable, the death-rate during the last nine months having amounted to 11 per cent. at the lowest computation. This terrible mortality may have been due in part to the unusual severity of the winter, but must be attributed principally to overcrowding and insufficient food. I took an opportunity of visiting the prison, which is situated under a part of the Government buildings, and, from its position, cannot be added to or enlarged. The rooms are sufficient for the present number of prisoners (about 150), but must have been dreadfully overcrowded during the winter, when they contained nearly 300.

The ordinary food of the criminals is bread and water, which is hardly sufficient to support them during winter, when the cold here is extremely severe. The diseases which have proved most fatal, viz., consumption and anæmia, are probably caused by insufficient nourishment and foul air.

13. I do not know whether it is any part of my duty to report on this subject, but, in the interests of humanity, I venture to bring the matter to your Excellency's notice.

I need hardly add that I attach no blame to the local authorities, who are not in a position to carry out improvements which must necessarily entail considerable expense.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. PICTON WARLOW.

No. 265.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received July 8.)

E
(No. 98.) *Therapia, June 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

IN my conversation with Abédine Pasha yesterday, the subject of Armenia and of Asiatic Reforms was discussed at considerable length between us, but as I have had to address your Lordship at some length with regard to the Greek and Montenegrin questions to-day, I have no time left before the messenger starts to write at any length on other matters. But I am anxious to bring one point at once to your Lordship's notice.

His Excellency spoke of the statistics of the various races in the vilayets claimed to be peculiarly Armenian. He said the Council of Ministers had been going very fully into the subject, and had examined the facts very carefully. The result of their inquiry would be communicated to the Powers in the answer of the Porte to the Armenian portion of our identic note. It would differ entirely from the statistics of the Armenian Patriarch.

He would not, however, ask us to accept Turkish figures. He intended to propose to his colleagues that to settle the point conclusively two English officers should be appointed and paid by the Porte, who, in conjunction with one Turk, or possibly two Turks, should ascertain the exact truth, and whose verdict as to the numbers the Sublime Porte would accept.

I said that if such a course should be pursued an Armenian should be associated in the task. He was not averse to the idea, but anticipated some difficulty in the Council, especially as it might set a precedent for a similar procedure of counting elsewhere. He should prefer to leave out the Turks also, and leave the ascertaining of the truth to Englishmen alone.

I should wish to reserve my opinion for the present as to the proposal of Abédine Pasha. He does not mean that the Reforms which the Government are about to propose should be deferred till the result is ascertained. On the contrary, he states that the Reforms will be carried out forthwith. But the demand for an autonomous Armenia will evidently be met by a categorical denial of the existence of an Armenian majority and an offer to prove the Turkish case by an inquiry in which England should see fair play.

I must defer an account of the rest of my conversation with reference to Asia, including the questions of the refugees, the ravages of the Kurds, the position of the Governors-General, and the finances of the provinces until another opportunity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 266.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 232.) *Foreign Office, July 10, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 107 A of yesterday, informing me of the proposal of your colleagues that they should prepare a draft reply, which would not in any way commit their respective Governments, to the scheme of reforms for Armenia suggested in the Porte's reply to that portion of the identic note which refers to the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

Such a draft would be of great value to the Governments concerned, and I have requested your Excellency by telegraph to join with your colleagues in its preparation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 267.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(Received at the Foreign Office, July 13.)

(No. 20. Political.) *Van, May 25, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE received some information about the present condition of Gevver and the more remote parts of Hakkiari from a person who gives me the idea of being an impartial observer.

As regards famine, there is great distress among the Kurds. The Christians are better off, though there is some distress among them also. Only five Christian villages are in extreme need. As a rule, the Christian villages have some corn, but have concealed it for fear of the Government on one side and the Kurds on the other.

The peaceable villagers are subject to pillage on all sides from the Kurds. They are so cowed that a village containing 300 or 400 men will permit two or three Kurds to come in and ransack the houses, taking what they will. They are even afraid to give the troops information which might lead to the capture of marauders for fear of vengeance.

On the other hand, the Christians are themselves answerable for part of their sufferings, for if a man has a quarrel with another, it is common for him to pay a Kurd to rob or murder his adversary, a chance which the Kurd is only too willing to take advantage of.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

My informant tells me that Sheikh Obeyd Ullah is working hard to extend his influence. He is ingratiating himself with the Christians, and large numbers of the latter have migrated from Gevver into the Sheikh's immediate neighbourhood in order to enjoy his protection from other Kurds. There can be no doubt that he still meditates throwing off the Turkish rule. On the other hand, Bahri Bey, Samih Pasha's Aide-de-camp, who is a son of Beder Khan Bey and also one of the Sultan's Aides-de-camp, is to start this week to bear to the Sheikh the decoration the Sultan has bestowed upon him.

I am glad to say that I have obtained evidence that the reports that in Shaddakh corn had been given to the Kurds and not to the Christians are devoid of foundation, that in fact the Armenians received corn the first.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

No. 268.

Captain Clayton to Major Trotter.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, July 13.*)

(No. 21. Political.)

Van, May 25, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received from the Bishop of Mush a copy of a paper presented by the Armenians of Mush to the Imperial Reform Commissioners, setting forth their grievances and the reforms they consider desirable. The document is of great length, but I inclose a précis of it.

As regards the facts referred to in it, I believe them to be correctly stated on the whole.

With respect to the recommendations made, some are obviously desirable, while others are crude and vague, and about some I should wish to make a few remarks.

In the first place, as regards the appointment of officials, no Government would be likely to consent to the appointment of Governors of various grades, such as Kaïmakams, Mudirs, &c., by popular election. It is not unreasonable that some of them should be Armenians, but their election could hardly be left to the Medjlisses.

But this leads to the consideration of a broader question. The leading principle of the proposed reforms is the division of the members of the various Courts and Councils according to the numerical proportion of the Christians and Turks, and the election by each nationality separately of its own members. Now, I do not believe that this scheme would produce the effect desired. In the first place, the Armenians would not allow the Kurds, Circassians, &c., to count at all, but would base their calculations on the relative numbers of Christians and Turks only. This, in many places, would give the majority to the Armenians, which is what they desire; but it would meet with the bitterest opposition on the part of the Moslems, who would insist, not without some show of reason, that the Kurds, &c., being inhabitants of the country, ought to have some share of representation. Further, without a better census than at present exists, it would be extremely difficult to apportion the numbers satisfactorily. Again, such a scheme would only embitter the relations between Moslems and Christians, and there would be not the slightest chance of Christian and Moslem members working together for the general good, but they would invariably take opposite sides, and whichever happened to be in the majority would persecute the others, and misery, if not open disturbance, would ensue.

The real truth is that the country is not yet fit for representative government. There are too many heterogeneous elements bitterly hostile to one another, and all narrow-minded and bigoted. The Armenians themselves are divided by factions which would show strongly if they obtained power, though now kept in the background by the necessity of showing union in face of those who oppress them. I believe, however, that, if relieved from the weight that now presses upon them materially and morally, they would welcome education and light and improve both in stamina and moral qualities, and eventually be able to rule well. But, at present, I believe a strong hand is necessary to keep in order the various clashing interests, and give education, enlightenment, and improvement a fair chance to work.

Therefore, I am still of opinion that some scheme based on the principles enunciated in the paper inclosed in my despatch No. 26, Political, of the 20th November, 1879, is what is required for the immediate necessities of this part of the country—that is

to say, a strong Executive, kept in the right path by a certain number of European officials, and assisted by the deliberations of a consultative representative Council, and local Tribunals held in check by European Judges of Appeal. I do not think it would be desirable that the members of the Council or of the local Tribunals should be chosen on the principle of Moslems and Christians separately electing their own members, as that would perpetuate hostility, but that they should be chosen by the voices of all the electors together, some scheme being employed to secure the representation of the minority.

But I sincerely trust that it may be possible to bring about some substantial reform, as the present condition of the country is miserable in the extreme.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EMILIUS CLAYTON.

Inclosure in No. 268.

Précis of a Paper presented to the Imperial Commissioners by the Armenians of Mush.

Preamble.

THE Armenians having suffered for many years much oppression, the Sultan, in accordance with the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin, has sent Commissioners to examine into the condition of the country, and to introduce reforms. The Armenian Civil and Ecclesiastical Councils of Mush, therefore, present this statement of their grievances, and of the remedies they would propose.

1. *Choice of Mutessarif.*

The man chosen for this post is generally unfit and corrupt, and always a Moslem. Kurds are also often chosen for high posts. Armenians never obtain such posts, even though they may be more fit. After so many Turks and Kurds it would be well to try an Armenian, who might do better. This would, moreover, be carrying out the principle of equality. He should be chosen for a certain fixed time, be approved by the Armenian Patriarch at Constantinople, and have a Mouavin, who might be either an Armenian or a Turk.

2. *Choice of Kaïmakams.*

These should be chosen from either Mussulmans or Armenians, according as the number of either predominated in the cazas, by the Idaré Medjliss, taking account of the opinion of the Medjlisses of the sandjaks, and be approved by the Vali. He should have an assistant of a different nationality.

3. *Choice of other Officials.*

Officials such as Defterdar, Mektoubjie, &c., to be chosen by Idaré Medjliss, and approved by Vali without regard to nationality or religion. The officials of cazas should be chosen in the same manner. They should have assistants of a different nationality.

4. *Choice of Idaré Medjliss.*

When the number of members has been fixed, they should be divided between the nationalities according to the numerical proportion of the latter, and be elected freely by the peoples. There should be no longer *ex officio* members. Fresh elections should take place every two or three years, but members to be eligible for re-election. In the sandjaks and cazas the Medjlisses to be elected in a similar manner.

5. *Courts of First Instance.*

Such to be formed in sandjaks and cazas, as well as in capital of vilayet. Presidents not to be ecclesiastics. President of Court at capital to be chosen by the Vali, in sandjaks and cazas by examining Medjliss. Members of Courts to be chosen proportionally to population, Mussulman or Christian, by free popular election. At least half the members to retire every two years, but to be eligible for reselection.

6. *Commercial Tribunal ("Tijaret Medjliss").*

Each vilayet to have a Tijaret Medjliss. The President to be chosen by Idaré and Tijaret Medjlisses in joint sitting, and approved by the Vali. Idaré Medjliss to choose members from lists submitted by the leading merchants. At least half the members to retire every two years, but to be eligible for re-election.

7. *Banks.*

Some time ago banks were established from which peasants could borrow money at low interest, which interest they willingly paid. But various circumstances caused the closing of these banks, and the people are now in the hands of private individuals, Beys and Aghas, who lend money at exorbitant interest, and greatly oppress the peasantry. Banks should, therefore, be re-established, but their managers should be Europeans.

8. *Agricultural Inspection.*

To improve the backward agricultural condition of the country, Inspectors of Agriculture should be appointed for every sandjak, with full freedom to act. These Inspectors to be appointed from Constantinople.

9. *Educational Inspection.*

In every sandjak Inspectors of Education to be appointed from Constantinople, with full freedom to improve the educational status of all nationalities.

10. *Public Works Inspection.*

The existing Beladiyé Medjlisses, or Municipal Councils, to be placed under competent Presidents, and formed of competent members, and to be changed to Inspectorates of Public Works. The existing Beladiyé Medjlisses waste and misappropriate their revenues, but the Public Works Inspectorate to be obliged to have a Civil Surgeon and Apothecary, and look to the improvement of roads and communications, the cleanliness of towns and villages, and sanitary measures, and, in short, use their revenues for the benefit of the country at large.

11. *Gendarmerie.*

The present gendarmerie is incompetent to fulfil its duties. A new gendarmerie should, therefore, be organized in a European manner with European Commanders. Every gendarme to be able to read and write, and bear a good character. To be chosen from peoples according to their numerical proportion. None of the present officers and men to be admitted, nor Kurds, Circassians, and the like.

12. *Taxes.*

The taxes now levied are beyond the power of the people to pay, therefore many emigrate. This must be looked to, and all the different taxes merged in a single one, assessed according to an equitable scale. No new taxes to be imposed, and those existing to be somewhat lightened until the people are in a better condition. The present system of collecting taxes is bad, whether they are farmed or collected directly by Government officials. It is therefore necessary that the system of tithes should cease, and that an average be taken of the produce of the tithe for the last five years, and this amount be assessed on the land.

13. *Sheri (Religious Law).*

This is now used instead of the Civil Law by the Presidents of the Courts of First Instance (Cadis and Muftis), who are ignorant of the Civil Law. Therefore, these ecclesiastics should be removed from the Presidency of the Courts of First Instance, and the Religious Law be used solely for cases between Moslems.

14. *Civil Law.*

A Civil Code has been published, but is continually being altered by orders from Constantinople. New officials also often reverse the decisions of their predecessors. The Code is faulty also, especially in criminal cases. For crime the punishments are imprisonment or fine, which gives a great opening for corruption. A second fault is the want of provisions for punishing delinquent officials. Therefore new Codes should be drawn up after those used by enlightened nations.

15. *Tax-collecting.*

At present this is done by zaptiehs, a course full of objections. Therefore a system should be introduced by which the year's taxes are divided into four parts, and each quarter the Headman of each village should collect the amount required, and himself pay it to the Treasurer, receiving a receipt; or the collection should be made by properly appointed, well paid officials.

16. *Language Question.*

Christians often suffer in Courts from not knowing Turkish well. All laws, proclamations, &c., are written in Turkish only, and all public business is transacted in that language. All laws should be promulgated in Armenian as well as Turkish, and in the Courts Armenian should be accepted when occasion arises, as Kurdish now is. In a word, Armenian and Turkish should be concurrently employed.

17. *Land Question.*

Although the Turkish law says that land that has been cultivated, and the taxes paid on it, for seven years, is the property of the person who has thus cultivated it, yet in Mush, after peasants have so cultivated lands for scores of years, Beys and Aghas suddenly lay claim to the land, and obtain Government titles, and force the peasants to yield possession. Again, when the Government initiated the system of giving titles, the officials gave titles to claimants without any examination, so many Beys and Aghas have obtained titles to wide lands to which they had no just claim. New orders direct land questions to be tried by the religious law contrary to the Firman which decreed that such cases should be tried only by civil Courts. The peasants are actual slaves in the hands of the Beys and Aghas. A special Commission should be formed to decide these important questions. In title-deeds correct surveys and boundaries are very necessary.

18. *Prisons.*

There are fit prisons neither in cities nor in country cazas. The existing ones are damp, miserable, and unhealthy. Criminals and debtors are confined together, and there are no infirmaries. The gaolers are zaptiehs, and treat the prisoners cruelly. Better prisons and proper officials and regulations are necessary.

19. *Oppressions.*

Mush is surrounded by wild and cruel Kurds, for whom the Armenians must build houses, cultivate fields, feed cattle and do all sorts of work, but do not thereby escape pillage, outrage, dishonour, &c. In some places the Kurds sell Armenians to one another as if they were slaves. Armenians have also to pay taxes to the Aghas, as well as fees for marriages, &c. During the war the sufferings of the Armenians were great; in the city of Mush six families of Turks have all offices in their hands, and oppress the Christians worse than the Kurds. The causes of the wrongs of the Christians are: firstly, the fanatic Moslem ecclesiastics, who preach hatred and persecution; secondly, corrupt officials, by whom criminals escape justice, and are even rewarded by office; thirdly, influential Turks who have common interest with robbers and criminals, and protect them. The Government does not seem to wish to put an end to robbery and oppression, as when Kurds have at different times been exiled they have quickly been allowed to return. The tribal system is recognized by the Government, and the Chiefs receive honours and rewards. It is supposed that the Government does not desire to disarm Kurds, because it considers them useful on the frontier; but in the last wars, instead of fighting against external enemies, the Kurds turned their arms on the subjects of the Porte. Latterly the situation has been made doubly bad by the refugees from the territories ceded to Russia. Remedies advised: (1) fanatic priests should be brought under control; (2) all persons, officials or otherwise, protecting criminals should be punished and exiled; (3) the tribal system should be put an end to, and the tribes dispersed, and the Kurds forced to adopt agriculture; (4) Kurds, Circassians, and such like should be disarmed, or the Armenians should be allowed to arm themselves in self-defence; (5) the influx of refugees should be stopped; (6) notorious Kurdish Chiefs should be exiled.

20. *Oppressions by Government.*

Gratuitous service of carts, horses, mules, &c., and gratuitous provisions are required for the transport of troops, refugees, and officials on their journeys. For

troops provisions are bought in the villages, but at a very small price, and only paper vouchers are given, which are never redeemed. In the town of Mush there are no barracks, hospital, or stables, so that when troops come families are driven out of their houses, which are used for the troops.

People are obliged to give their animals to Government for transport gratuitously, for unlimited times.

Contractors going to the villages to purchase stores give false vouchers. Even in the city officials abuse the Christians and blaspheme their religion, even in the Courts of Law. When Christians have suits at law they are allowed to linger on for months. Bribery is rampant. Christian women and girls are made Moslems without the legal preliminaries having been complied with.

In an attack made by Kurds on a Christian village, four Kurds and four Christians fell. Government said four Christians were equivalent to two Kurds, and forced the Christians to pay 25,000 piastres as blood-money on account of the extra two Kurds.

Remedies advised: (1) gratuitous service should be no longer exacted; (2) gratuitous transport, &c., should no longer be demanded for officials travelling; (3) honest officials should be employed to purchase stores from the villages, and pay for them; a proper calculation of supplies already given should be made and reckoned against taxes; (4) proper barracks, &c., should be built; (5) all labour should be paid for; (6) all officials not doing their duty properly to be punished, and not to be allowed to hold any office again; (7) officials to be forbidden to abuse Christians; (8) no one to be allowed to change their religion without proper formalities under 21 years of age.

21. *Finance.*

The Sal Namé for the year 1877 shows that the revenues of the two Vilayets of Van and Erzeroum for that year were 50,000,000 piastres, while the expenditure in the vilayets was 14,172,790 piastres. Of this, 169,396 piastres only were spent on education, and this only on the religious teaching of the Moslems, and only 210,000 piastres on public works. The monthly salaries of zaptiehs were 50 to 100 piastres; members of Medjlisses, 200 to 300 piastres; Mudirs, 250 piastres; Kaimakams, 800 to 900 piastres. These salaries are totally insufficient to prevent corruption. It will be seen that less than one-third of the revenue was spent locally, the remainder being sent to Constantinople.

Remedies: Sufficient salaries to be paid to all officials out of revenue; sufficient sums to be set apart for roads and other public works, also for public education; remainder to be sent to Constantinople.

22. *Miscellaneous.*

(A fresh distribution of seats of Government is recommended; but since the giving in of this paper the new Vilayet of Bitlis has been formed.)

The bad system of giving insufficient or no salary to employés should cease. Regular and sufficient salaries should be paid. Offices should be given to Armenians and Turks indifferently. Kurds, Circassians, and such like, should not have office. Officials should not be arbitrarily removed. If women are carried off and made Moslems, their evidence as regards their consent should not be taken, but the abductor punished in all cases. For the security of the country, military posts should be established at intervals along all roads. Advocates should be sent from Constantinople to assist the administration of justice. Impartial officials should administer justice, and the Courts should have both Turkish and Christian members, with Assessors. In each vilayet there should be a Court of Appeal, the President to be appointed from Constantinople, directly responsible to Minister of Justice there.

Each vilayet should have a General Assembly, the members of which should be chosen from Turks and Christians, according to their relative numbers. The members to be chosen by free popular election. This Assembly to have the task of framing the Budget, deciding how taxes should be levied, and, in short, do everything necessary for the welfare of the country.

Conclusion.

The Armenian people are only desirous to live prosperously under the Sultan's Government, so place this scheme before the Imperial Commissioners, begging that reforms may soon be carried out, or, at all events, an instalment.

No. 260.

Vice-Consul Gatheral to Mr. Goschen.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, July* 13.)

(No. 76.)

Sir, *Angora, June* 26, 1880.

I BEG to hand your Excellency the following notes of a recent visit to Kianguri or "Changora" as it is sometimes incorrectly written.

This district, for administrative purposes, forms part of the Kastambol Province, of which it forms one of the divisions or sandjaks; geographically, however, it belongs to Angora, and its separation from it causes much difficulty, many delays, and, as will be shown later on, represents a considerable loss to the Turkish Exchequer.

Why it should be so separated is one of the mysteries of Turkish administration. From Angora it is only 24 hours, or two days' easy march; from Kastambol it is four days' very difficult journey, as the "Golgaz" range of mountains (9,000 to 12,000 feet elevation) stretches across the province from east to west, and is so steep and rugged that for four months in the year the mule-tracks that cross it are utterly impassable.

Population of the Sandjak is returned 108,711 tax-paying males; of this the greater number are Moslem, not more than 10 per cent. being Greek, Armenian, Circassian, and refugee.

Employment of the People.—The Moslems are all farmers or graziers, or, if belonging to the official class, employed in some way by the Local Government. Christians are all either shopkeepers, agents, or merchants.

Commerce is on a very small scale, owing to distance from the sea, want of roads, and difficulty of carriage, and is mostly one of retail in the special products of the district, and the few necessaries and luxuries of Turkish life that will bear the expense (over 20 per cent.) of sea and land carriages from Constantinople. Exports consist of mohair, sheep's wool, and opium, the average total of which amounts to 182,000*l.* annually. These are bought by resident agents of British merchants doing business in Constantinople.

Imports are of the usual kind, Manchester prints and cottons, Glasgow shawls and muslins, Sheffield cutlery (or German imitations thereof) and colonials, the annual total of which is estimated at 210,000*l.*

Form of Government.—Kianguri is a "Mutessariflik" (Lieutenant-Governor). The present ruler is Ahmet Velim Pasha, a very weak, corrupt, and incapable Governor, whose only qualification for such a post is that he is the brother of Dervish Pasha, the defender of Batoum during the war. The administration of justice, of police, and of revenue is like that of Asia Minor generally, characterized by delay, inefficiency, enormous expense, and much corruption; many cases of special hardship and petty tyranny on one hand, and singular weakness, almost amounting to impotence, on the other. These chronic evils are somewhat exaggerated in the case of Kianguri by the inefficiency of the Lieutenant-Governor, but the population is fortunately an orderly and submissive one, and disorders are comparatively rare. They take the form of brigandage, abduction of girls, &c., the Moslems being generally the aggressors, Christians the victims. Circassians are numerous, and these Ishmaelites prey upon all with great impartiality. All communities and creeds curse them heartily, but they practise and prosper in spite of these maledictions.

Public Revenue is as under:—

	£ T.
Income-tax	23,023
Military exemption	185
Land transfers and sales	958
Sheep and goat tax	13,544
Tithes on grain, &c.	57,626
Total	96,341

Turkish lira at 18*s.* to the lira.

This revenue is entirely absorbed in expenses of administration and the payment of "havaleh" (Exchequer bonds); indeed the public accounts show a deficit for the current year of over £T. 2,200, even in the extremely improbable event of all the revenue being got in. Payment of havaleh is, however, evaded on various pretexts, and considerable sums are remitted direct, both to Mallich and Palace at Constantinople.

Indirect Contributions, or customs on tobacco, spirits, and stamped petition papers, amounted last year to £T. 22,801. The bulk of this revenue is derived from a

valuable rock salt mine 12 miles distant from the town of Kianguri, which supplies the whole neighbourhood with this indispensable commodity. This administration formerly showed all the worst symptoms of the Turkish system, but having six months ago passed under European inspection and control, the worst evils of that system seem to be already disappearing, whilst the revenue has increased 20 per cent. in amount, and working expenses reduced in nearly the same proportion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GAVIN GATHERAL.

No. 270.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, July* 13.)

(No. 53.)
Constantinople, June 30, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for your Excellency's information, a Report on the administration of justice in Anatolia. I have attempted to give as fair an account as I could of the Courts and their working from personal observation and information derived from the most trustworthy sources available.

I have suggested certain changes in the present system, but feel that all attempts to improve the Courts will fail unless honest and capable men can be found to fill the positions of Judge and Assistant Judge.

No copy of the Report has been made for transmission to the Foreign Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure in No. 270.

Report on the Administration of Justice in Anatolia.

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1. THE effect of the recent changes in the mode of procedure in the Law Courts, and of the additions to the judicial staff, cannot be thoroughly appreciated without some knowledge of the nature and condition of the people of Anatolia and of the pre-existing state of affairs.

2. The population of Asia Minor is made up of a large number of diverse races, religions, and languages, that have rarely shown any tendency to unite or amalgamate, a number, as it were, of heterogeneous communities possessing none of the conditions of independent political existence. The extent to which this is the case may be gathered from what is found in the Sivas Vilayet. There is, in the first place, the broad distinction of the two creeds, Islam and Christian, the members of the one never forgetting that they won, and still hold, their present position by right of conquest, and ever resenting and resisting all attempts to alter it; the members of the other hating the Moslem with the bitter hatred engendered by centuries of oppression, and always striving to acquire a predominance, which they think recent events have placed almost within their grasp. Amongst the minor divisions may be enumerated the so-called Turks, consisting of a few Osmanli and Seljuk Turks in the towns, and of the hardy, patient, and temperate race which occupies the country from Anti-Taurus to the Ægean Sea, a race formed out of the earlier inhabitants of Asia Minor, who adopted Islam at the time of the conquest, and, gradually losing their distinctive dialects, acquired the language of, and finally identified themselves with, the conquerors. Most of the Turks are Sunnis, but in many districts there are groups of villages containing a purely Kizilbash or Shi'ite population. There are, in addition, the Avsha'ars of Anti-Taurus, apparently of Turkoman origin, but speaking a peculiar dialect; the Kurds, partly Sunni, partly Shi'ite, having their own language; the Gabartai, Tchetchen, and Tegai Circassians speaking one language, and the Abseikh and Abbas Circassians speaking another; the Tartars, the nomad Turkomans, the gypsies, and the recent emigrants from Georgia and Lazistan. Amongst the Christians are the Armenians, Gregorian, Roman Catholic, and Protestant, not always on the best of terms with each other; and the Greeks, partly descended from a Greek stock, partly representing the old Pontic population. Roughly speaking, the Turks form five-eighths, the Christians one-fourth, and the other races one-eighth of the population of the vilayet.

3. It is hardly possible for any one who has not travelled in Anatolia to realize the low position which the people occupy in the scale of civilization. Except in the larger towns, education of any kind is almost unknown; and in all agricultural operations, the construction of houses, handicraft, &c., there is little improvement on the primitive methods of the earliest ages.

4. The task of administering justice in a country possessing such discordant elements is one sufficient to try the capacity of a much better Government than that of Turkey.

5. By the Vilayet Law of 1867, modified and extended by more recent laws and Vizirial Circulars, the Ottoman Empire was divided into vilayets (provinces), sandjaks (districts), cazas (sub-districts), nahiés (communal circles), and cariés (communes).

6. The cariè, or commune, was a group of forty houses. Each commune had a Mukhtar (Headman), with a Muavin (Assistant), and a Council of not more than twelve, nor less than three, members, called the Ikhtiar Medjliss (Council of Elders). The Mukhtars and Elders were freely elected by the people; every Ottoman subject who was 18 years of age, and paid 50 piastres (8*s.* 9*d.*) per annum direct taxes, had a vote. Imams and spiritual Chiefs of non-Moslem religious communities were *ex officio* members of the Council of Elders. The Mukhtars and Elders were elected for a year, but were always eligible for re-election.

7. The Council of Elders formed a Court of Compromise for the amicable settlement of differences between members of the commune. The Court had no power to pass sentence, and was strictly forbidden to effect any compromise in police or criminal cases. When a difference had been adjusted, both parties were required to sign a paper acknowledging the justness of the decision, and the matter could not afterwards be brought before a Court of Law.

8. A nahiè, or communal circle, was a collection of communes, varying in number according to convenience. Each nahiè had a Mudir (Administrator) appointed by Government, a Cadi appointed by the Cadi of the vilayet, and a Council of Elders elected by the communes. The spiritual Chiefs of the religious communities formed part of the Council.

9. The Council of Elders formed a Court of Compromise, for the amicable settlement of questions that the Communal Courts had not been able to adjust, and especially of questions affected by the Sheri, or Moslem law. The Cadi presided over the Court, and gave his advice on points of law. The Cadi and the Elders received no pay.

10. A caza, or sub-district, was formed of a varying number of nahiés. At the chief town of each caza there was a Kaïmakam (Governor), appointed by Government,

a Cádi, appointed by the Sheikh-ul-Islam, and a Court of First Instance, called the Medjliss-i-Davi. When necessary, there was also a Commercial Court (Tejaret Mahkamé), with its own President.

11. The Davi Medjliss consisted of the Cadi, as President, four members, two Moslem and two non-Moslems, and one clerk. It took cognizance of all cases except disputes between Moslems, which came under the Sheri, disputes between non-Moslems within the jurisdiction of their several communities, matters solely within the competence of the Criminal Courts, and commercial cases. The sentences were signed by the Cadi and members, and sent to the Kaïmakam, who carried them out as far as his powers allowed.

12. The powers of the Davi Medjliss were as follows: in civil causes it could pass sentence, without appeal, in all cases involving sums up to 1,000 piastres (8*l.* 15*s.*) principal, or 100 piastres (17*s.* 6*d.*) annual income, and in more important cases with right of appeal; in criminal causes it could pass sentence in all cases qualified by the Penal Code as misdemeanours, and punishable with a week's imprisonment and a fine of 100 piastres (17*s.* 6*d.*), without appeal; and in cases punishable with three months' imprisonment and a fine of 500 piastres (4*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*), with right of appeal. In more serious cases it could only take evidence and report. The President (Cadi) directed the proceedings, summed up the case, collected the votes of the members, passed sentence, prepared the Minutes of the Court, and issued the "Ilam," or written sentence.

13. By a later Vizirial Circular the Davi Medjliss was authorized to try criminal cases, but the sentences were not valid until approved by a higher Court.

14. In cazas where there was no Commercial Court, the Davi-Medjliss could try commercial cases in accordance with the Commercial Code.

15. All cases affected by the Sheri were tried according to Moslem procedure, and the Cadi passed sentence.

16. The members of the Davi Medjliss were elected in the following manner: once every two years, the Kaïmakam, the Cadi, the Mufti, the spiritual Chiefs of non-Moslem communities, and the Mal Mudir assembled as an Electoral Committee, and selected twelve names from the list of Ottoman subjects residing in the caza who were 31 years old, and paid 150 piastres (1*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*) direct taxes annually. These names were sent, on printed forms, to the communes, and from them each Council of Elders selected and returned eight to the Electoral committee. The communal lists were examined by the Mal Mudir, in presence of the Committee, and a new list was prepared containing the eight names which had received the largest number of communal votes. This revised list was forwarded to the Mutessarif (Lieutenant-Governor) of the sandjak to which the caza belonged, and he, with the advice of his Administrative Council, appointed from it the four members of the Davi Medjliss.

17. The salaries of the Davi Medjliss were approximately: President, 1,000 to 1,500 piastres (8*l.* 15*s.* to 13*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*) per month; members, each, 70 to 120 piastres (12*s.* 7*d.* to 1*l.* 1*s.*) per month; clerk, 100 to 200 piastres (17*s.* 6*d.* to 1*l.* 15*s.*) per month. The salaries were usually several months in arrear.

18. A sandjak or district was formed of a certain number of cazas. At the seat of Government of each sandjak there was a Mutessarif, appointed by Imperial order; a Cadi, appointed by the Sheikh-ul-Islam; a Court of Appeal, called Medjliss-i-Temiz; and a Commercial Court, Tejaret Mahkamé, with its own President.

19. The Temiz Medjliss consisted of the Cadi, as President, and six members, three Moslem and three non-Moslem, with a varying number (seven in Sivas) of clerks, examiners, and registrars. It took cognizance of all cases except disputes between Moslems, which came under the Sheri, Moslem law; disputes between non-Moslems within the jurisdiction of their several communities, and commercial cases. The sentences were signed by the Cadi and members, and sent to the Mutessarif, who carried them out.

20. The Temiz Medjliss passed final judgment on appeals from the Davi Courts, and acted both as a Court of First Instance and Appeal Court for the home caza of the sandjak. In civil causes the Temiz Medjliss passed sentence, without appeal, in all cases involving sums up to 5,000 piastres (43*l.* 15*s.*) principal, or 500 piastres (4*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*) annual income, and in more important cases, with power of appeal; in criminal causes it could try in first instance, and with right of appeal, offences punishable with three months' imprisonment and 500 piastres (4*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*) fine, or temporary exile or dismissal. In the case of graver crimes it could only collect evidence.

21. The Commercial Court was formed and carried on its duties in accordance with the rules of the Commercial Code. It consisted of a President, who was generally a member of the Ulema, of two members elected for life, of from two to four members elected for a year, and of a certain number of clerks (in Sivas three).

22. The Cádi was sole Judge of the Sheri (Moslem law), and passed sentence in all suits which were tried by it.

23. The members of the Temiz Medjliss were elected in a somewhat similar manner to those of the Davi Courts. The Electoral Committee consisted of the Mutessarif (Lieutenant-Governor), the Cadi, the Muhassibiji (Accountant), the Mufti, the Spiritual Chiefs of non-Moslem communities, and the Tahrirat Mudir (Secretary). A list of eighteen names was sent to each caza. The Administrative Council and the Davi Medjliss of each caza met together and returned twelve names to the Electoral Committee. The returns from the cazas were examined by the Secretary in the presence of the Committee, and a list was prepared of the twelve names which had received the largest number of votes in the cazas. The revised list was sent to the Vali (Governor-General) who, with the advice of his Administrative Council, selected from it the six members of the Temiz Medjliss.

24. The salaries were approximately:—

President, 2,000 to 3,000 piastres (17*l.* 10*s.* to 26*l.* 5*s.*) per month.
Members, each, 280 piastres (2*l.* 9*s.*) per month.
Clerks, average, 200 piastres (1*l.* 15*s.*) per month.
The President of the home sandjak of the vilayet received 4,000 piastres (35*l.*) per month.

The salaries were very irregularly paid.

25. A vilayet, or province, was formed of three or more sandjaks (districts). At the seat of government there was a Vali (Governor-General) appointed by the Sultan; a Cadi appointed by the Sultan on the recommendation of the Sheikh-ul-Islam; a High Court of Appeal, called Divan-i-Temiz; a Medjliss-i-Temiz for the home sandjak; and a Tejaret Mahkamé, with its own President.

26. The Divan-i-Temiz consisted of the Cadi, as President, and six members, three Moslem and three non-Moslem, with a varying number, in Sivas five, of clerks, examiners, and registrars. Three members of the Court were charged with civil and three with criminal causes; they had power to unite for deliberation when necessary. The Court took cognizance of all cases except disputes between Moslems, which came under the Sheri, disputes between non-Moslems within the jurisdiction of their several communities, and commercial cases. The sentences were signed by the Cadi and members, and forwarded to the Vali for execution.

27. The powers of the Divan-i-Temiz were as follows: in civil causes it passed final judgment on appeal cases from the Davi and Temiz Courts, but it could not deal with any cases in first instance; in criminal causes it decided appeal cases from the lower Courts, and tried crimes punishable with death, hard labour for life or for a period, and perpetual exile. In these last cases sentence was passed by the High Court of Justice at Constantinople.

28. The Chief Clerk of the Divan-i-Temiz had to forward each year a return of cases tried in the vilayet to the President of the High Court of Justice at the capital.

29. The Commercial Court, formed as in the sandjaks, acted as a Court of First Instance for the home sandjak, and heard appeals from the other Commercial Courts of the vilayet.

30. The Cadi inspected the Sheri Moslem Courts, and gave his opinion on the decisions and sentences of the other Sheri Courts of the vilayet.

31. The Electoral Committee of the vilayet consisted of the Vali (Governor-General), the Cadi, the Defterdar (Accountant-General), the Mektubji (Secretary-General), the Mufti, and the Spiritual Chiefs of non-Moslem communities who had a seat on the Administrative Council of the vilayet. The Committee selected eighteen Ottoman subjects living in the vilayet who paid 500 piastres (4*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*) direct taxes annually, were of good repute and credit, and could read and write, and sent their names to the sandjaks. The same process was followed in the sandjaks as that described in paragraph 23. The returns from the sandjaks were addressed to the Vali, who submitted the names he selected for the Divan-i-Temiz to the Porte, and the elections were then confirmed by Vizirial letter.

32. The salaries were approximately:—

President, 5,000 piastres (43*l.* 15*s.*) per month.
Members, 380 piastres (3*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*) per month.
Clerks, average, 450 piastres (3*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*) per month.

33. From the Temiz Divan appeals could be carried to the High Court of Justice at Constantinople.

34. The law directed that each year half the members of every Court should go out of office; they were, however, eligible for re-election.

35. According to the Law of 1870, Government should have appointed Vice-Presidents to the Vilayet and Sandjak Courts, and an official trained in the law to each Caza Court.

36. The Vali was instructed to carry out the general laws of the Empire, and was intrusted with the execution of sentences passed by the judicial power; he could generally inspect and supervise the working of the Law Courts, and direct certain cases to be tried at first instance by the Appeal Courts. The Vali was responsible for the public safety, for the organization and administration of the police (zaptieh) force, for the state of the prisons, and the conduct of the prison officials. A Vizirial Circular of 1872, after remarking on the interference of civil employés with the course of justice, laid down that the Vali could only exercise a general supervision over the Courts with a view of securing the prompt and certain dispatch of business. In 1876 the powers of the Vali were further reduced; he was forbidden to interfere in any way with the discussions in the Courts, or to influence the decisions; if complaints were made to him of delay in the progress of cases he could only confer with the Cadi and report to the Minister of Justice at Constantinople. The Mutessarifs (Lieutenant-Governors), Kaïmakams (Governors), and Mudirs (Administrators) exercised, in their respective spheres, powers similar to those of the Vali.

37. The legal machinery of a vilayet was thus complete from the Ikhtiar Medjliss (Council of Elders) of the commune to the Divan-i-Temiz (High Court of Appeal) of the vilayet; and the whole was supervised and to a certain extent controlled by the Vali, and his representatives in the sandjaks, cazas, and nahiés.

38. The laws used in the Courts were the Sheri or Moslem law and the Nizam or common law. Moslem law, which has its source in the Koran, has grown up gradually, with the requirements of the people, since the death of Muhammed; it is founded on various traditions and commentaries which have been codified at different periods. The principal Code is that prepared, by Ibrahim Haleby, in the reign of Suleiman the Magnificent in the 16th century; the most recent codification, and that which is now in general use in the Courts, is the Mejellé, made about six years ago. In addition to the Codes the fetvas or "rulings" of the Sheikh-ul-Islam are considered of high authority in all disputed points, and great deference is shown to "adet," or local custom. The Nizam law is contained in the Dustur, a collection of laws issued since the promulgation of the Hatti Sherif of Gul Hané of 1839, and the Hatti Humayun of 1856. The Commercial Code forms part of the Nizam law.

39. The police (zaptieh) force was administered by the Vali, who distributed it as he thought best in the sandjaks and cazas. The head of the force was the Mir Alai (Colonel), acting under the orders of the Vali, but directly responsible to the Minister of Police in all matters relating to discipline and interior economy.

40. The prisons were, by law, to be so organized that persons awaiting trial might be kept separate from those undergoing sentence. The Vali was responsible for their administration; he appointed the officials, and was directed to see that no one was unjustly imprisoned or kept in prison without a trial.

41. The mode of procedure was somewhat as follows: in a case of simple robbery, for instance, the plaintiff presented a petition to the Vali, stating the nature of the robbery, the names of the robbers, and other details. The Vali referred the petition to the proper Court, and gave orders for the capture of the robbers. After the petition had been numbered and registered at the Court, the plaintiff and his witnesses were examined by the Cadi or Chief Clerk, and their depositions written down, and sealed by the deponents. When the robbers were caught they and their witnesses were examined in a similar manner. These depositions formed the "istentak" or evidence, which was laid before the Court and enabled it to come to a conclusion on the merits of the case. The decision was arrived at by a majority of votes. The plaintiff and defendant were brought up to hear the opinion of the Court, and after their objections had been considered sentence was passed.

42. Two or more witnesses were required by law to prove any fact.

43. The sentence or "ilam" was written in a book and signed by the President and members. A fair copy attested by the seal of the Court was afterwards given to the successful suitor, who took it to the Vali with a petition praying that it might be carried out. A law, issued in 1876, directed that the sentences should be drawn up in Turkish, but that they should have attached to them, according to the locality, a translation in Arab, Greek, Bulgarian, Bosnine, or Armenian.

44. The only recognized cost of a suit was the price of the "ilam," which was paid by the man who gained the case.

45. Lawyers were sometimes employed by parties to a suit to assist them in preparing a case.

46. The laws and system of administering justice which have been sketched above

were, on the whole, well suited to the social condition and requirements of the people; they left considerable latitude to the several races and religious communities in the settlement of matters directly affecting themselves; provided a simple and inexpensive means of administering justice in mixed cases, civil as well as criminal, and placed great power in the hands of the people which, with progress and enlightenment, would have produced good results. The system failed partly because it was carried out in a half-hearted manner; partly from the wholesale corruption of the officials, from the Cadi who presided over the High Court of Appeal of the vilayet, to the Mukhtar who called the Elders together in the village commune; and partly from the extraordinary apathy of the people with regard to everything that does not personally effect them.

47. Though the members of the several Courts were nominally elected by the people they were really nominated by the Vali, the Mutessarif, or Kaïmakam, and not unfrequently purchased their seats. The intrigues commenced with the preparation of the lists of selected names, and they generally ended in the election of local Beys or rich Notables as Moslem members, and, as Christian members, of men who had either little independence of character, or who were devoted to the interests of the local Notables. No one was ever proposed for election from the belief that he would make a just and upright Judge. The consequence was that honest, capable men held aloof, and that the Courts almost invariably degenerated into local "rings," the members of which sought only to enrich themselves, and advance their own interests and those of their friends. Even the forms of election were rarely carried out; in some communes no elections have taken place for eleven or twelve years; in others no recognized Mukhtar has been elected for years; and even in such an important town as Sivas there have been no elections for seven years.

48. There has probably never been a time in which the prestige of the Courts has fallen so low, or in which the administration of justice has been so venal and corrupt. The most open and shameless bribery is practised from highest to lowest; prompt even-handed justice for rich and poor alike is unknown; sentence is given in favour of the suitor who "places" his money most judiciously; imprisonment, or freedom, has in many places become a matter of bribery; robbers, when arrested, are protected by members of the Courts who share their spoil; a simple order may send an innocent man to prison for months; crime goes unpunished, and all manner of oppression and injustice is committed with impunity. The Cadis, especially those in the cazas, are, as a rule, ignorant men, with no education, knowing little of law, except the Sheri, on which they based their decisions, and sometimes not overmuch of that. As to the members, it is sufficient to say that they are nearly all equally ignorant of law, and that probably not 25 per cent. of them can write Turkish, or read the sentences to which they attach their seals. In the Commercial Courts the Presidents are frequently entirely ignorant of the duties which they have to perform. The low pay of the Cadis, the short term, two years, during which they hold their appointments, and the manner in which they obtain them, render the receipt of bribes almost a necessity. The first thought of a Cadi who buys an appointment in the provinces is to recoup himself for his outlay; the second, to obtain enough money to purchase a new place when his term of office is finished. Even under this system men are to be found who refuse to receive bribes; and there are others who, whilst giving way to temptation, deplore the necessity to do so.

49. Under the old system, when a man was robbed, he had to bribe the Secretary of the Vali before he could get his petition referred to the Courts; then he had to bribe the registering clerk to place the petition on the register; the zaptiehs to catch the man who had robbed him; the clerk to write out a true deposition; the Cadi and the members of the Court to obtain a decision in his favour; the clerk to give him a copy of his sentence; and finally, the executive officials to carry it out. No one would act unless it was made his interest to do so. So well was this known, and so costly was the process, that, when possible, men willingly made a compromise with the robber by letting him keep half the stolen property. Too often, however, the robber who could afford to spend half or two-thirds of his ill-gotten gain in bribing the Court won his case. Frequently, people who were robbed were so convinced of the unwillingness of the authorities to punish the robbers, that they would make no formal complaint. For the rich man there was some chance of justice, for the poor man none. The effort of every suitor was to buy a protector, if possible, in the Divan-i-Temiz, if not, in one of the lower Courts. The very terms of the sentence were a matter of bargain; if the judgment was to be strong, the bribe must be high. The clerks of the Court took advantage of the ignorance of the witnesses to insert or omit matter in their depositions, as they thought best for the interests of the party who had bribed them. Christian witnesses were rarely treated with equity or consideration. The Cadi, after the secret interrogatory, could accept or refuse testimony, as he thought fit, without being under the necessity of offering an explanation

to any one. Witnesses were tampered with or intimidated. False seals have been used more than once; and members not knowing how to write have been persuaded to attach their seals to papers they would not have signed had they known what they contained. There was no finality to the proceedings; a man could always reopen a case if it went against him; the most simple suits dragged on for years; when a man gained his case he had often to wait for months before he received his "ilam" or sentence, and then perhaps found that his opponent had carried his suit to another Court, two or three days' journey distant. The rule directing sentences to be translated into Armenian and other languages was never carried out. There was no dignity about the Courts, and but few attempts were made to maintain order, or to conduct the proceedings with any regard to propriety.

50. The laws were not bad in themselves, if they had been properly administered; they were, however, often changed or modified by Vizirial Circulars, and the universal corruption was so great that it may be almost said there was no law in the country.

51. The rule which requires the evidence of two witnesses to prove any fact has produced a curiously organized system of perjury. In every town there is some café or bath at which false witnesses are always to be found, ready to give any evidence on payment. The men are perfectly well known to every one, yet Judge and Court constantly go through the solemn farce of hearing and recording their evidence, and of giving judgment in accordance with it. From the peculiar value of Moslem evidence, most of the false witnesses are Turks; there is, however, a proportion of Christians.

52. By law the testimony of all persons is equal, but in the greater portion of Anatolia, though Christian evidence may be received, no weight is attached to it. When Moslem and Christian evidence are opposed to each other, the latter is disregarded. For instance, three Christians are travelling along a road, and one of them is robbed by a man well-known to all of them; in the action which ensues, the robber has only to prove an *alibi* by two Moslem false witnesses to gain his case.

53. The law which directs both the giver and receiver of a bribe to be punished defeats its own object, as neither party is likely to accuse the other. There is no effective punishment for bribery; in the rare instances in which a man is convicted, he is suspended from office for two or three years, and then buys another post. Bribery has always been bad, but the open, shameless way in which it is now practised apparently dates from the depreciation of the caimé currency. Many men take bribes personally, and one Cadi is said to have descended so low as to take pieces of 5 piastres caimé, about 2½*d.*; the more usual system, however, is to arrange the bribe through a third person, and the higher officials have, not uncommonly, attached to them some person who is the recognized medium for receiving and settling the amount of the bribe.

54. The law respecting blood money, or compensation paid to the relatives of a murdered man, is a relic of barbarous times, and gives rise to many instances of injustice, bribery, and oppression.

55. The police force was everywhere in a deplorable state; owing to the low and uncertain nature of the pay few men of good character entered it; officers and men were frequently in league with the robbers; they lived on the people, and were, as a rule, alike corrupt.

56. The prisons were generally low, dark vaults, with little means of ventilation; horrible, unclean dens, into which men awaiting trial, criminals undergoing sentence, debtors, peasants who could not pay their taxes, and boys who had committed some trifling offence were alike thrust. The officials were almost always corrupt, and bribery for release from prison was universally practised; the wealthy bandit who could command influence in the Courts, or bestow large presents on the officials, walked the streets at large whilst the unfortunate peasant was obliged to pass his days and nights amidst unspeakable horrors.

57. The practicable evils and abuses described above as existing in the system of administering justice were not incurable; honest, capable officials, a small proportion it is true, were to be found in every branch of the Administration. It was only necessary to reward and promote good men, whilst punishing those who were corrupt, to enforce the strict execution of the laws, and to introduce some slight necessary modifications.

58. The changes made last year with a view of improving the administration of justice were somewhat as follows.

59. The Ikhtiar Medjliss (Council of Elders) of the carié (commune) is left unaltered as a Chamber of Compromise.

60. The Court of the nahié (communal circle) is given a new name, Devaïr Sulhié (Chamber of Compromise), and its powers enlarged. It may now pass sentence in civil causes, without appeal, when the sum involved does not exceed 150 piastres (1*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*),

and in criminal causes when an offence is punishable with a fine of 30 piastres (5*s.* 3*d.*); it may also inflict a larger fine or pass sentence of imprisonment with right of appeal.

61. The Court of the caza (sub-district) is now called Muhkamé Bedayet. It consists of a President, two members, one Moslem and one Christian, two clerks, an Assistant Mustantik (Examiner), and two executive officials, to carry out the decrees of the Court. In important cazas the Court may be divided into two sections, the Hukuk (Civil), with a First President ("Reis Evvel"), and two members; and the Djeza (Criminal), with a Second President ("Reis Sani") and two members. The duties of the two sections are distinct, but in all administrative details they are under the First President.

62. The Bedayet Court decides appeals from the Nahié Courts; in civil cases it passes sentence, without appeal, when the sum involved does not exceed 5,000 piastres (43*l.* 15*s.*) principal, or 500 piastres (1*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*) income, and, with right of appeal, in cases involving larger amounts. In criminal causes it may pass sentence, without appeal, on a certain category of crimes, and, with appeal, on others.

63. When the Bedayet Court acts as a Tejaret (Commercial) Court, additional temporary members, selected from merchants of repute in the place, must be added.

64. The members of the Bedayet are now being elected on the old system, but in future they are to be appointed by Royal Irade on the recommendation of the Minister of Justice. To be a member, a man must be 25 years old, must never have been convicted of any crime, and must either have passed an examination at the Ministry of Justice, or have served for four years as an unpaid member, an examiner, or a copying clerk.

65. The salaries are as follows:—President, 1,500 piastres (13*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*) per month. The salary varies in different cazas. Members, each 250 piastres (2*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*) per month; first clerk, 100 piastres (18*s.* 10*s.*) per month; second clerk, 250 piastres (2*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*) per month; Assistant Mustantik (Examiner) 300 piastres (2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*) per month; executive officials, each 160 piastres (1*l.* 8*s.*) per month. The total amount of the salaries is 3,270 piastres (28*l.* 12*s.* 3*d.*) per month.

66. The Medjliss-i-Temiz of the sandjak is now called the Bedayet Muhkamé. It is divided into two sections, the Hukuk (Civil), with a First President ("Reis Evvel"), two members (one Moslem, one Christian), an assistant member, and two clerks; and the Djeza (Criminal), with a Second President ("Reis Sani") and a similar number of members and clerks. For the combined Courts there are an Assistant Mudhiourmoum (Public Prosecutor), with three unpaid clerks, a chief clerk, three executive officials, and a porter. The administration of the Bedayet is under the Reis Evvel. One of the members acts as Mustantik (Examiner).

67. The Bedayet Court of the sandjak acts as a Court of First Instance for the home caza of the sandjak, and gives judgment on appeals from the other cazas; it also passes sentence, with right of appeal, when the sum involved does not exceed 10,000 piastres (87*l.* 10*s.*) capital, or 1,000 piastres (8*l.* 15*s.*) income; it tries criminal cases, with right of appeal.

68. The Tejaret Muhkamé (Commercial Court) of the sandjak is unaltered; it acts as a Court of First Instance for the home caza, and hears appeals from the other cazas of the sandjak.

69. The mode of election of the members and their qualifications are the same as for the cazas (paragraph 64).

70. The salaries are as follows:—President, 4,000 piastres (35*l.*) per month; Second President, 3,000 piastres (26*l.* 5*s.*) per month; members, each, 400 piastres (3*l.* 10*s.*) per month; assistant members, each, 300 piastres (2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*) per month; clerks, each, 300 piastres (2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*) per month; total salaries, civil and criminal, 10,400 piastres (91*l.*) per month. In addition there are the following salaries:—Assistant Public Prosecutor, 2,000 piastres (17*l.* 10*s.*) per month; Chief Clerk, 600 piastres (5*l.* 5*s.*) per month; Executive Officer, 750 piastres (6*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*) per month; executive officials, each, 160 piastres (1*l.* 8*s.*) per month; porter, 50 piastres (8*s.* 9*d.*) per month. Total salaries of the Bedayet Court of the sandjak, 14,120 piastres (123*l.* 11*s.*) per month, or nearly 1,500*l.* per annum.

71. The Divan-i-Temiz of the vilayet is now called the Istinaf Muhkamé. It is divided into two sections, Civil and Criminal; the first under a President, the second under a Vice-President. Each has two members (one Moslem, one Christian), an assistant member, and two clerks. The combined Courts have attached to them a Mudhiourmoum (Public Prosecutor), with three or four clerks, at present unpaid; a Chief Clerk, four mubashirs (ushers or messengers), and one porter. One of the members of the Court acts as Mustantik (Examiner). The administration of the Istinaf is under the President, who is also the Cadi of the vilayet.

72. The Istinaf hears and gives judgment on appeals from the Bedayet Courts of

the sandjaks, as far as they lie within its competence. In criminal cases it acts in accordance with the new Penal Code.

73. The Tejaret Mahkame (Commercial Court) acts as a Court of First Instance for the home sandjak, and as a Court of Appeal for the other sandjaks of the vilayet. Its composition is as follows:—One President at 2,000 piastres (17*l.* 10*s.*) per month; two members, each at 190 piastres (1*l.* 13*s.* 3*d.*) per month; one Chief Clerk at 285 piastres (2*l.* 9*s.* 10*d.*) per month; one copyist at 150 piastres (1*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.*) per month; one Registrar at 50 piastres (8*s.* 9*d.*) per month; two officials, each at 100 piastres (17*s.* 6*d.*) per month; two unpaid members.

74. The members of the Istinaf are appointed in the manner described in paragraph 64. To be a member a man must be 30 years old, and have been for four years a member of a Bedayet Court. The assistant members in all the Courts are elected from a list prepared by the Vali; the Mufettish (Inspector) and the Cadi by those who have a right to elect the Administrative Council of the vilayet.

75. The following are the salaries in the Istinaf Court:—President, 5,000 piastres (43*l.* 15*s.*) per month; Vice-President, 4,000 piastres (35*l.*) per month; members, each, 1,000 piastres (8*l.* 15*s.*) per month; assistant members, each, 300 piastres (2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*) per month; clerks, each, 300 piastres (2*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*) per month. Total salaries, Civil and Criminal, 14,800 piastres (129*l.* 10*s.*) per month. Additional salaries for the whole Court:—Mudaioumoum (Public Prosecutor), 4,000 piastres (35*l.*) per month; Chief Clerk, 1,000 piastres (8*l.* 15*s.*) per month; mubashirs (messengers), each, 160 piastres (1*l.* 8*s.*) per month; porter, 100 piastres (17*s.* 6*d.*) per month. Total salaries of the Istinaf, 20,540 piastres (179*l.* 14*s.* 6*d.*) per month, or about 2,156*l.* per annum.

76. The full rates of pay are given above; at present the salaries of all officials are reduced 10 per cent.

77. From the Istinaf Court appeals may be carried to the High Court of Justice at the capital.

78. The Mudaioumoum (Public Prosecutor) is appointed by the Sultan for the protection of the rights of the public in judicial matters; he is under the orders of the Ministry of Justice, and has to see that the laws are properly carried out; in criminal cases he performs the functions of Public Prosecutor; and in civil cases he has power of interference when questions are raised concerning the rights and property of the public or the Government; the misconduct of Judges; minors, idiots, or prisoners; absentees, &c. The Mudaioumoum can have access to any papers connected with a civil suit, and carry an appeal to the higher Courts. He also watches over the execution of sentences.

A Mudaioumoum has been appointed to every Istinaf (Appeal) Court, and a Mudaioumoum Mouavin (Assistant) to every Bedayet Court (First Instance). In the Bedayet Courts of the sandjaks men have been specially appointed to act as assistants; but in those of the cazas the duties of Assistant Public Prosecutor were intrusted to the Kaimakams (Governors). They have since been transferred to the officers commanding the zaptiehs, who now perform them.

79. A Mufettish (Inspector) has been appointed to reside in each vilayet. His duties are to travel and examine into the state of the Courts within his jurisdiction, especially into the manner in which the routine business is conducted, and to report everything which hinders the proper administration of justice. The Mufettish is instructed to see that trials are public, and that every one has fair play; to report to the Minister of Justice any interference with, or undue influence exercised over, the Courts by Government officials or local notables, and such acts or conduct of Judges as might necessitate their dismissal. He has also to bring to the notice of the Minister of Justice and Local Government cases of oppression, or neglect of petitions, and instances in which sentences have not been properly carried out, or in which persons have been refused the right of appeal. The Mufettish visits and inspects the prisons, and reports irregularities to the Minister of Justice; he also receives petitions against the conduct of Judges or members of the Courts. The qualifications of a Mufettish are, that he should be well acquainted with the Civil and Criminal Code and the regulations of the Law Courts. He receives pay at the rate of 10,000 piastres (87*l.* 10*s.*) per month, besides good travelling allowances.

The Mufettish has no executive powers; he is simply a reporter, and his reports may or may not receive attention at the Ministry of Justice.

80. The Mustantik (Examiner) examines the plaintiff and defendant, and their witnesses; and he writes down their depositions ("istentak"); he also records his opinion as to which party should be placed in prison. The depositions are sealed by the deponents. In the Sandjak Bedayet Courts, and in the Istinaf Courts, the Mustantik is one of the ordinary members of the Court.

81. In each Court a Conviction Committee ("Ittiham") is formed of the President and two members to examine the depositions and prepare a summary of the case. If in the event of a robbery, for instance, this Committee decides that the evidence against the defendant is insufficient, and quashes the case, the matter cannot be reopened without an order from the Minister of Justice. The plaintiff has no resource, but must submit, however faulty the decision of the Committee may have been.

82. The Judicial is now entirely separated from the Administrative, and the Vali (Governor-General) of a vilayet cannot even ask how a case is going on. He has no power to check gross abuses or to interfere in any way with the Courts.

83. Some slight alterations have been made in the Civil and Criminal Codes, but the laws are virtually the same as they were before. A number of complicated regulations have been issued for the guidance of the new Courts, and many useless formalities have been introduced.

84. The police (zaptieh) force is now under the Minister of War; its relations to the Vali remain unaltered.

85. The administration of the prisons and the charge of the prisoners are left to the Vali; but the duties of inspection are assigned to the Mufettish, who is also responsible that no one is unjustly imprisoned or left in prison without a trial.

86. The mode of procedure in the case of a simple robbery is as follows:—The man who is robbed presents a petition to the Mudaioumoum (Public Prosecutor), who forwards it to the Mustantik (Examiner). The Mustantik questions the plaintiff and his witnesses minutely and writes down their evidence on an istentak (deposition), which is signed by the plaintiff. If the plaintiff can afford it he employs a lawyer to assist in the preparation of the istentak. The Mustantik states on the istentak who, in his opinion, should be arrested; the paper is then sent to the Mudaioumoum, who, if it be in due form, gives the Chief of the Police an order to arrest the accused persons; if any flaw is found it is returned to the Mustantik for amendment. When the accused persons are arrested, they and their witnesses are examined and their istentak sent to the Mudaioumoum, who then orders a trial. The istentaks are now submitted to the Conviction Committee ("Ittiham") which examines them, and draws up a summary of the case, stating the opinion formed on its merits. The Committee has power, if it wishes, to call the plaintiff and defendant before it. The summary, when completed, is forwarded to the Mudaioumoum, who records his approval or otherwise. If it be approved the case is brought before the Court; the plaintiff and defendant are brought up, and, after the Judge and members have asked any questions they think necessary, a secret consultation is held and a verdict arrived at. The verdict is referred to the Mudaioumoum, and, if he have no objection, sentence is passed.

Attempts have been made to improve the arrangements of the Courts; the President and members are shut off by a wooden railing from the suitors, their witnesses, and the public; and something like order is now kept in the principal Courts.

87. The laws and rules as regards evidence remain unchanged.

88. A rough copy of the ilam (sentence) is written out by the Chief Clerk of the Court and sealed by the President and members. A fair copy of the ilam, attested by the seal of the Court, is afterwards given to the successful suitor, who takes it to the executive official. The latter, if no appeal be made within the prescribed time, carries out the sentence.

89. It is intended that the cost of the Courts should, henceforward, be covered by fees, and rules have been issued laying down the various fees which are to be collected. Some of these fees are as follows:—

The registry of the first petition, 5 piastres (10½*d.*).
Mistentak's fee for deposition of plaintiff, 10 piastres (1*s.* 9*d.*).
Mistentak's fee for deposition of defendant, 10 piastres (1*s.* 9*d.*).
For every written document used in evidence, 5 piastres (10½*d.*).
The sentence is charged for according to its length.
If the defendant be imprisoned the plaintiff has to pay 5 piastres (10½*d.*) per diem for his board.
In a civil suit the legal charges necessary to recover a sum of 1,000 piastres amount to 500 piastres.

90. A certain number of lawyers (four at Sivas) are appointed by the Mufettish (Inspector) to attend to cases before the Courts.

91. The changes which have been made touch few, if any, of the evils in the administration of justice which have been described above, paragraphs 46 to 56. Most of them are unnecessary and unsuited to the habits of the people; and the time selected for introducing the new scheme was peculiarly unfortunate. The country is in fact not ripe for legal reform, and the result of the action of the Porte has been to throw the judicial machinery of the Empire completely out of gear. The great mistake was made of

attempting to apply the Code Napoléon to an Eastern country inhabited by different races, almost without education; and of employing men to introduce it whose whole train of thought was Oriental, and who were unacquainted with Western civilization, and the mode of procedure in Western Courts of Law; some of the men had not even had any legal training or experience under the old system.

The Porte seems to have thought that to introduce reforms it was only necessary to multiply the number of officials, and hence, at a time of great financial distress, when the Government servants in every vilayet were several months in arrear of pay, a host of new officials on high salaries was poured into the provinces; a month after they were appointed all their salaries were reduced 10 per cent. It would almost seem that one of the objects of the new organization was to provide places for the numerous Cadis and other officials thrown out of employment by the territorial changes resulting from the late war; or, perhaps, as money is in great demand at Constantinople and every place has its price, a golden harvest was expected from the creation of so many new posts.

Whilst the pay of the superior officials is fairly good, that of the members of the Court and of the clerks is still wretchedly inadequate. No one, except some of the new well-paid men, likes the change; every one complains of it. The additional staff has made no impression on the heavy lists of suits before the Courts; the simplest cases drag on for months; and the people say they cannot obtain the slight justice meted out to them formerly under the old system. The fees are so high that law has become a luxury beyond the reach of the peasant, and bribery and corruption are as great as ever, in some places they have increased, as there are more officials to bribe.

92. The increase to the powers of the Bedayet Courts (First Instance) of the cazas, as at present organized, is a mistake; and the reduction of the number of members from four to two has tended to lessen very considerably the influence of the Christians over the administration of justice. As none of the officials or clerks of the Courts are Christians, the solitary Christian member of the Bedayet can scarcely be expected to give an independent opinion; in practice he merely assents to the ruling of the Judge.

The amount of business before the Courts is not sufficient to justify their division into two sections, one civil, the other criminal. This arrangement has, however, one advantage, that the Criminal Court Judge is sometimes a "fez" and not a "turban;" criminal cases are therefore occasionally tried before men who are not members of the Ulema. Unfortunately, criminal cases are often tried partly in the criminal and partly in the civil section of the Court, and when they come into the latter, over which the Cadi presides, the ruling of the Sheri prevails.

The power of the Mudiioumoums (Public Prosecutors) is in some respects too great, and in others too slight; in ordinary criminal cases they are able to interfere in a most arbitrary and irritating manner, whilst in civil cases, or in cases affected by the Sheri, they are all but powerless. Their position gives them favourable opportunities for taking bribes, which they are not slow to take advantage of. The transference of the duties of Assistant Public Prosecutors in the cazas from the Kaimakams to the commanding officers of zaptiehs has been a very great mistake.

The appointment of Mufettishes (Inspectors) to reside in the vilayets, with no executive powers, has been a useless and expensive measure. No attempt was made to define the respective duties of the Valis and Mufettishes; their relations with each other have everywhere been strained, and in some instances they have come into open conflict, with the most unfortunate results. A Mufettish, having no power to punish the Cadis and members of the Courts in case of misconduct, or to interfere with the proceedings of the Courts when there is an evident miscarriage of justice, has no influence for good. No one cares about an unfavourable report, for every one knows that Constantinople is a long way off, and that reports are apt to lie unnoticed in the Ministry of Justice unless some one is bribed to attend to them, a course the Mufettish is not likely to pursue.

One of the most grave defects in the present system is the enormous power placed in the hands of the Mustantik (Examiner). He conducts the examinations in the most arbitrary manner, and accepts or refuses evidence as he pleases; it virtually depends upon the Mustantik whether a man gains his case or not, and the matter becomes one for financial arrangement. As the deponents can rarely read or write, and are seldom accompanied by lawyers, the Mustantik can, and often does, write down quite a different story to that which the men tell; upon these false depositions the Conviction Committee acts. When the Mustantik is a Moslem there is little chance of his treating Christians with equity.

The powers intrusted to the Conviction Committee are liable to much abuse, and when they quash a case it is extremely difficult to obtain an order from the Minister of Justice to reopen the question. A very bad instance of this occurred at Sivas last year,

in which the Committee rejected the evidence brought forward by a Christian who had been robbed, though the circumstance and the names of the robbers were well known to many people. The plaintiff appealed to the Minister of Justice, and the Mufettish reported strongly in the man's favour, but report and appeal were treated alike with silent contempt.

The formation of a separate executive branch to carry out the sentences of the Court seems to be unnecessary in the present state of the country, and it adds much to the cost of a case.

93. The Presidents of the Courts are still, as a rule, selected from members of the Ulema, and the senior President of each Court, who, in certain cases, has great powers, is always a member of that body. These men rarely know much of the Nizam law, and are almost invariably guided in their decisions by the Sheri. The Cadis of the nahiés (communal circles) are hopelessly ignorant and corrupt.

The members of the Courts are still ignorant and uneducated; few of them know how to read and write Turkish, and a still smaller percentage knows anything of the laws they are supposed to administer.

The choice of men to act as Mufettishes (Inspectors) has in some instances been unfortunate; at Kastamuni, for instance, the Mufettish up to the date of his appointment was employed on financial work; he openly confesses his ignorance of law and of the new regulations, and has never taken any steps to check bribery or corrupt practices.

The selection of men to act as Public Prosecutors and as Assistant Public Prosecutors has been even worse. At Karahissar the Assistant Public Prosecutor, an exceedingly ignorant man, who has never gone through the form of an examination, is frequently drunk, and occasionally amuses himself by letting the prisoners out of prison; at Amasia there is a young Kurd gentleman, entirely ignorant of everything connected with law, and animated by feelings of hostility towards the Christians; and at other places there are men of a somewhat similar character. In very few instances, such as those of Yuzgat and Manisa, have the appointments been good ones.

There has been much difficulty in finding proper clerks for the Courts; the pay is too small to attract men qualified for the work, and not sufficient to live upon without resorting to improper means. The employment of Christian clerks is extremely rare; in the Sivas Vilayet there is probably not one.

There is a general feeling that honest officials are still dismissed, whilst those who are corrupt and dishonest are rewarded and promoted.

94. The system of election under the new rules is not described; the current belief appears to be that the members will be selected by a Committee consisting of the Vali, the Mufettish, the Cadi, and the spiritual Chief of the Christian community.

The provision that service, in some capacity, in a Court is to be a necessary qualification for election, though right in theory, will for the moment strengthen the position of the "rings" of local notables and adventurers.

95. The pay of the superior officials is too high, whilst that of the inferior officials is too low.

96. The cumbrous mode of procedure which formerly prevailed has been increased and complicated by a number of new regulations and formalities that render the progress of a case slower than it was before; and a somewhat pedantic adherence to legal forms and technicalities often prevents prisoners from being brought to justice.

97. The law as regards testimony is still unsatisfactory; false witnesses are resorted to as frequently as ever; there is the same want of impartiality in recording Christian and Moslem evidence; and the prejudice against the former remains unchanged.

98. No steps have been taken to remove the great evils that arise from delay in granting the ilams (sentences); men have still to wait weeks and months before receiving these documents, unless they choose to obtain them by bribery.

99. The new laws and rules which, according to a notice accompanying them, are to be submitted to Parliament, have a provisional character that has given rise to much distrust. They are a copy or imitation of the Code Napoléon, but they do not in any way replace the Mejellé; this codification of the Sheri, in twelve volumes, remains the Civil Code of the mixed population, Christian, Moslem, Jew, &c., of the Empire. A Christian can rarely hope to obtain justice in a suit with a Moslem as long as the Mejellé remains the guide and ultimate reference of the bigoted, ignorant men who preside over the Courts of Law.

The constant modification of the laws and rules by orders from Constantinople would cause inconvenience if the orders were not as a rule ignored.

100. Throughout the country there are loud complaints of the great cost of all legal processes; poor men are quite unable to bring a case before the Courts; and rich men are only too glad to effect some compromise which may save them from an expensive and

tedious lawsuit. The poor are really deprived of the small measure of justice they received formerly, and it is now often said, "The robbers are bad, but the law is ten times worse." The law which obliges the plaintiff to pay for the maintenance in prison in idleness of the man who robbed him is felt to be a special hardship.

101. The introduction of fees has not had the slightest effect in checking the common practice of bribery. As the officials are much in arrear of pay they cannot live without taking bribes.

102. The laws relating to the levy of blood-money have not been changed; they still lead to great abuses, especially when an "Ezan" is cried on the spot where a man has been murdered with a view to levying the tax on the village which hears the cry.

103. The principle of a complete separation between the Judicial and Administrative is no doubt a good one, and works well in civilized countries where there are upright Judges, but in the present condition of Anatolia it was a great mistake to make the Courts independent of the Valis who were the only check on their notorious corruption. The curtailment of the powers of the Vali is unfortunate; it prevents a good man from improving the state of affairs, and does not hinder a bad man from doing harm. The course of justice has now been virtually removed from all control and placed in the hands of the very men against whose bigotry and corrupt practices the whole country has been crying out.

104. The *morale* and discipline of the police (zaptieh) force are still as bad as they can well be, and no attempt has been made to form a gendarmerie of selected men with a due proportion of Christians. The commanding officer of zaptiehs in a vilayet has at least four masters, the Minister for War, the Vali, the Public Prosecutor, and the Executive Official of the Courts. This causes much friction; the officers of justice complain that the zaptiehs will not bring up witnesses, and that they do the work of the Vali first and that of the Court afterwards. The Valis, on the other hand, say that their small force of zaptiehs is being constantly employed on business for the Courts, and cannot therefore maintain public order.

105. The prisons are still, with very few exceptions, in a state almost too horrible for description. No distinction is made between men awaiting trial and those undergoing punishment, or between criminals and common debtors. There is no hard labour, and the prisoners pass their time in idleness until they can obtain a release by bribery or interest.

106. In attempting to introduce reforms into the administration of justice it should be remembered that a caza (sub-district) is as large as a medium-sized English county, that the country is sparsely populated, and that want of roads and proper means of transport make communication between town and town sometimes difficult and occasionally impossible. Secondly, that a large majority of the population is Moslem, and that any separate legislation in favour of the Christians would tend to inflame the religious animosity which exists at present, and perhaps lead to serious disturbances. Thirdly, that the people are poor, ignorant, and uncivilized, and that nearly all officials are dishonest.

107. The first step should be to free the laws and Courts from the influence of Western forms and ideas, and to make them more in accord with Eastern modes of thought and the general current of Oriental life; to reform along the old Moslem (Oriental) lines whilst securing equal rights and justice for the Christians.

108. No system, however good it may be, can work well until the Department of the Minister of Justice at Constantinople has been reformed. That Department, which should be an example to others, is reputed in the provinces to be the most corrupt, and in every way the worst in Turkey. Nor will reform be effective until every official, from the Cadi of the vilayet to the Mukhtar of the commune, is made to feel that he is personally responsible for any miscarriage of justice or maladministration of the law.

109. The following changes are suggested as tending towards simplification and improvement of the condition of the Christians:—

Organization, &c., of the Courts.

(1.) The Councils of Elders in the cairés (communes) to be retained as Courts of Compromise.

(2.) The Courts of the nahiés (communal circles) to be abolished. No Cadis to be appointed to the nahiés.

(3.) The Bedayet Courts (First Instance) of the cazas (sub-districts) to be abolished. A Cadi to be appointed to each caza to try suits between Moslems which are affected by the Sheri (Moslem law); the Kaimakam (Governor) to have magisterial power in cases of common assault, petty larceny, &c.

(4.) A Bedayet Court to sit at the seat of government of each sandjak (district),

including the home sandjak of the vilayet. The Court to consist of a Cadi, as President; a "Fez," or Christian, as Assistant Judge; and four members, two Moslem, two non-Moslem. The Court to act as a sort of County Court, with limited powers, and to sit once a-week or oftener if necessary. The Assistant Judge to preside in mixed cases, Moslem *versus* non-Moslem. The Mutessarif and his Musteschar (Assistant) to have certain magisterial powers.

(5.) A Tejaret (Commercial) Court to sit in each sandjak; the Court to consist of a President and four or more members.

(6.) An Appeal Court, with increased powers, to sit at the seat of government of the vilayet; the Court to consist of a President (the Cadi), an Assistant Judge (a "Fez," or Christian), and six members, three Moslem, three non-Moslem. The Assistant Judge to preside in mixed cases.

(7.) The Commercial Court of the home sandjak, with additional members, to act as an Appeal Court for the whole vilayet.

(8.) Movable Courts of Assize to be formed, and to sit twice in every twelve months, the month after Ramazan and six months later, at the seat of government of each caza. The Courts to consist of a President and six members, three Moslem, three non-Moslem; and to try criminal and civil suits finally, and, except in certain specified cases, without appeal; special powers to be given to the Courts to deal with land cases. The Presidents of the Assize Courts to be the Assistant Judges of the Bedayet Courts of the sandjaks, with this proviso, that no Assistant Judge is to sit as President of a Court of Assize in his own sandjak. The members to be elected in each caza, for the session of the Court, the Christians by the Christian community, the Moslems by the Moslem; the members would thus change each session. The President of the Assize Court to inspect the prisons and effect a general gaol delivery.

(9.) The post of Assistant Public Prosecutor in the sandjaks to be abolished, and the duties to be performed by the Mutessarifs or their deputies in the sandjaks, and by the Kaimakams in the cazas. A Public Prosecutor, with modified powers, to be appointed for the whole vilayet.

(10.) The post of resident Mufettish (Inspector) to be abolished, and Inspectors (Europeans by preference) to be sent once a-year from Constantinople, with power to suspend Judges and Assistant Judges, and to dismiss members of the Courts and clerks for proved misconduct or incompetence.

(11.) The power of the Mustantiks (Examiners) to be diminished, and depositions, in mixed cases, to be taken in the presence of a Christian and Moslem. The Mustantiks to express no opinion on the evidence.

(12.) Officials who are heads of Departments in the vilayet or sandjaks to be tried by the Appeal Court; all other officials by the Assize Courts.

(13.) Judges, Assistant Judges, Public Prosecutors, and Inspectors to hold office, pending good behaviour, for five years.

110. *Pay.*—The pay of all officials, including the members of the Courts and Mukhtars of the villages, to be settled on an equitable basis and paid regularly. A portion of the revenue of the vilayet to be set apart for the administration of justice.

111. *Personnel.*—Great care to be taken to secure honest, capable officials; Judges and Assistant Judges to pass a *bonâ fide* examination in law, and inferior officials a lighter examination; the members of the Courts to be able to read and write, and the clerks to be men of better education than at present. The number of officials to be diminished; good men to be promoted and rewarded, bad men to be punished or dismissed. A proportion of the Assistant Judges, the clerks and other officials, to be Christians. The President of the Commercial Court always to be a Christian merchant of good repute.

112. *Elections.*—The members of the Courts to be freely elected, the Christians by the Christian communities, the Moslems by the Moslem, and effective means to be taken to prevent undue influence on the part of local notables.

113. Though the separation of the Judicial from the Administrative was premature, it would be unwise to alter it now. The power of the Vali should, however, be increased in the following direction: he should be authorized, in cases of murder, robbery with violence, and other serious crimes, to confirm sentences of death, hard labour, and banishment passed by the Assize Courts or the Court of Appeal; to deal summarily with cases in which witnesses will not come forward to give evidence against notorious robbers, to bring officials before the Courts for trial, &c.

114. *Petitions.*—Every person to enjoy the right of petition free of cost; the petitions to be given to the Kaimakams, Mutessarifs, or Valis, who would refer them to be dealt with by the Courts or the proper authority.

115. *Procedure.*—All trials, without exception, to be in open Court; the Conviction

Committee to be abolished, and the present cumbrous, complicated mode of procedure to be so simplified as to allow of the completion of suits within a reasonable time. Proper registers to be kept in all the Courts.

116. *Sentences* to be read in open Court, and copies given to the successful suitors within forty-eight hours of the termination of the trials. If this be not done the Judge to be liable to a penalty. Sentences to be written in Turkish, Armenian, or Greek, according to circumstances.

117. *Execution.*—Duties connected with the execution of sentences to be transferred to the Valis, Mutessurifs, and Kaimakams.

118. *Laws.*—A new Civil Code, adapted to the requirements of the people, Christian and Moslem, and not based on a Western Code, to be prepared for use in the Courts; the Mejellé to be used only in cases between Moslem and Moslem.

In a country where lying is almost a second nature, the provision which requires the direct evidence of two witnesses can hardly be dispensed with, but the law against perjury and that which places Christian evidence on an equality with Moslem should be strictly enforced, and the bands of false witnesses broken up.

The law against bribery to be enforced.

The law of blood compensation to be abolished; if it be considered necessary to grant compensation to the family of a murdered man, the amount should be assessed by the Assize Court which tries the case, and levied on the villages within a certain radius of the place at which the murder was committed.

119. *Fees.*—Some fees, such as those for petitions, documents put in as evidence, the support of the defendant in prison, &c., to be abolished, and others to be modified.

120. *Police.*—An efficient gendarmerie to be organized, with a fair percentage of Christian officers and men. The gendarmerie to be a civil force, directly responsible to and controlled by the Vali, and not a semi-military force under the Minister for War.

121. *Prisons.*—The condition of the prisons to be improved; separate rooms to be provided for condemned criminals, men awaiting trial, and men imprisoned for debt or slight offences against the civil law; hard labour to be introduced, as well as a strict prison discipline; the Assize Courts to effect a general gaol delivery; the warders and prison staff to be specially selected men, not belonging to the gendarmerie; the Governor of the prison, an army officer by preference, to be responsible to the Vali as regards discipline, the safe custody of the prisoners, the state of the prison, &c., and to the Presidents of the Assize Courts and Inspectors of Justice for the legal imprisonment or otherwise of the men committed to their charge.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON, *Lieutenant-Colonel,*
Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia.

June 29, 1880.

No. 271.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 103.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 3, 1880.

I RECEIVED a visit yesterday from Ahmed Ghalib Bey, a Circassian Chief, who stated that he had been engaged by the Porte to undertake the settlement of those refugees, Circassians and Abkhazes, that are in the Sandjak of Ismidt, numbering 5,000 families, or about 50,000 persons.

Upon the recommendation of Ahmed Bey, the Porte has promised to allot land to these refugees, to build them houses, with a pair of bullocks to each family, and agricultural instruments, and to make them a daily allowance of 2 piastres for each grown-up person, and 1½ piastres for every child for a whole year, *i.e.*, until they are able to have produce of their own, and to support themselves.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 272.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

(No. 121.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 6, 1880.

MR. CONSUL BILIOTTI has sent me a copy of his despatch to your Lordship, No. 17 of the 15th ultimo, respecting the Mussulman emigration from Batoum. I have caused inquiries on the subject to be made here, and have learnt that none of these emigrants have yet reached Constantinople. It is asserted however that 40,000 Mussulmans have decided to emigrate from Batoum, and that two Turkish Government steamers have already been sent to embark them. Two officials belonging to the Palace have left to superintend the embarkation. Part of the emigrants will be landed at Samsoun, with a view to their settlement in the Province of Sivas; part will proceed to Sinope to be settled in the Vilayet of Angora and Kastamouni, and the remainder will be taken to Moudania and Ghemlik to be settled in the Province of Broussa.

Six hundred of the wealthier Mussulman families of Batoum here hired a steamer at their own cost, and landed recently at Moudania and Ghemlik. Their places of residence will be indicated to them by the authorities.

In addition to those above-mentioned, some 4,000 emigrants destined for Trebizond are still at Batoum awaiting the arrival of vessels to embark. The Vali of Trebizond having, however, represented that the population of that province is unwilling to receive them, it has been decided to convey them to Konieh, and to settle them in that province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 273.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(*Received July* 13.)

E
(No. 122. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, July* 6, 1880.

I HAVE this morning received the reply of Abédine Pasha to that part of the identic note lately addressed to the Sublime Porte which related to reforms in Asia. As it is rather a long document, and has to be copied by the time when the messenger leaves, I am unable to comment on it in any detail to-day.

I have briefly telegraphed to your Lordship the substance of this reply. I do not consider the proposals satisfactory, though a very considerable advance would be made in the right direction if they were conscientiously and energetically carried out.

The reply may be divided into three portions:—

1. The statement of what has hitherto been done.
2. The statement of the reforms proposed; and
3. The statistical part as to the numbers of Armenians and Mussulmans respectively.

I should be disposed to deal very briefly with the first part, simply referring to the deplorable state of things which exists at the present moment, and treating the remedial measures which have hitherto been taken as utterly futile and unsatisfactory.

With regard to the proposed new reforms, it will be necessary to examine the various points very carefully, and to show in what ways they are inadequate.

I have reason to believe that Abédine Pasha's proposals have been modified so as to meet the views of the reactionary party. There can be no question that the establishment of a Court of Assize to visit the local Tribunals periodically would, if properly carried out, be a very valuable reform, but, as at present advised, it seems to me that a phrase has been inserted which neutralizes the whole effect; the Court is only to "go through the districts where its presence shall be considered necessary." This provision places the whole system at the mercy of the Executive. They might simply abstain from sending the new Judges to such districts where they wished abuses to remain undiscovered.

Again, as regards the police, Abédine Pasha pointed out to me that the great merit of his plan would be that his village police would be local; as I understood him, recruited among the villages by the villagers. No such provision appears in the present draft, and its absence is highly significant. Again, I understood from him that the Administrators (Mudirs he called them himself) were to be elected by the villagers, whereas the project provides that they are to be named by the Government from among the village council, a very different arrangement, and which might deprive the locality almost of any control. In fact, they simply become Government nominees. This final resolution shows in what

spirit the plan has been received. Of course, it is a valuable concession that the Mudir is always to belong to that denomination among the people who are in the majority and his Lieutenant to that of the minority, but it is unsatisfactory that even this provision does not extend upwards among the higher functionaries. It will probably be necessary to claim it even as regards the Governor-General. I hinted as much to Abédine Pasha when he told me his general views unofficially, but he stated, in reply, that they would appoint some Christian Governors-General, but that it would be impossible to carry such a general provision in the Council of Ministers.

Abédine Pasha told me last night at the Palace, where we were dining, that the project of reforms had been sent to the Embassies. I asked him at once, "What guarantees have been proposed to protect Governors-General against arbitrary dismissal?" He replied, "We state that guarantees will be given. Mais c'est laissé dans le vogue; it will have to be worked out." Your Lordship will observe that the note states that "the duties of the Governors-General will be extended and their functions guaranteed."

It is clear that this phrase may be interpreted in any way agreeable to the Government, and is thoroughly unsatisfactory.

The best point about the plan seems to be the proposal as regards finance, though the passage dealing with it is expressed with as much obscurity as Article 19 in the proposed statute, now under consideration by the Eastern Roumelian Commission, dealing with the same subject. It must be held to mean that the administrative expenses of the vilayets, in fact, all the local expenses, are to be paid before revenue is sent to Constantinople, in fact, that the local expenses will be a prior charge on certain revenues. This, if surrounded with such precautions as to ensure the payment of local judges, police, and other functionaries, and the whole of the permanent expenses of the local Administration, before the provincial revenue is otherwise expended, would be a very valuable reform.

Of course, much larger questions will be raised, amongst others, how far it would be wise to ask for an autonomous province in reply to the inadequate present proposals of the Porte. On this the opinion of some of the strongest advocates for reform are divided. Colonel Wilson, of whose judgment I cannot speak too highly, and who is trusted by all with whom he has come in contact, is against the plan. He thinks it dangerous in the interests of the Armenians themselves. He considers they do not form a sufficiently compact body, and would not be sufficiently strong as to hold their own against the other denominations without outside help.

In this connection, the statistics of population in the provinces inhabited by Armenians become exceedingly important. The Porte have committed themselves to figures which will be considered as astounding in their note. I send home by this messenger other figures communicated to me by the Armenian Patriarch, which will also cause surprise in many quarters. I further send statistics collected by Colonel Wilson as to the Vilayet of Sivas. He was of opinion that the figures of the Armenian Patriarch were very much exaggerated.

It will be a question to consider whether advantage should be taken of the Porte's appealing to statistics to ask that the matter should be finally set at rest by an immediate inquiry, so conducted as to satisfy all parties.

I have broached the matter to Colonel Wilson. He thinks that in three months, with the assistance of his military Vice-Consuls and other available men, a rough census could be made.

I send your Lordship to-day a memorandum on the administration of justice in Anatolia by Colonel Wilson.* It is in this document that he states the population of the Vilayet of Sivas. I have only had time to read it through hurriedly. It would be important to have it printed† at once, and a certain number of copies forwarded to this Embassy, as the materials contained in it will be very valuable in the consideration which the Representatives of the Powers will have to give to the whole question of reforms in Armenia.

I do not as yet see clearly what action would be most expedient with reference to the reply just received. I presume that it will be agreeable to your Lordship that the Representatives of the Powers should confer together unofficially on the subject in the first instance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

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* See No. 270.

† Sent to printer.—T.

Inclosure 1 in No. 273.

Abédine Pasha to Mr. Goschen, July 5, 1880.

[See No. 256.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 273.

Monsignor Nercès to Mr. Goschen.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Constantinople, le 24 Juin*, 1880.

AU moment où la question des réformes concernant l'Arménie, objet du troisième point de la note collective remise à la Sublime Porte, est en discussion, j'ai pensé que votre Excellence serait satisfaite d'avoir entre les mains des documents statistiques sérieux. Le dénombrement de la population a été fait jusqu'ici d'après le nombre des maisons; ce mode est absolument erroné, les habitants de chaque maison n'étant en aucune façon identique selon qu'il s'agit de maisons occupées par des Chrétiens ou par des Musulmans. A raison des exigences des mœurs Musulmanes des ménages différents ne peuvent vivre sous le même toit; dans les mœurs Arméniennes, au contraire, les enfants et les frères, après comme avant leur mariage, continuent à vivre en commun; il en résulte que tandis qu'on doit compter trois à huit habitants au plus par maison Musulmane, on en peut compter douze à soixante par maison Arménienne.

Un dénombrement individuel peut seul fournir des indications exactes. Le Tableau ci-inclus, qui ne comprend que les recensements des six provinces Arméniennes proprement dites (les Arméniens sont encore au nombre d'un million dans le reste de la Turquie d'Asie), a été dressé avec la préoccupation de rester au-dessous plutôt qu'au delà de la réalité en ce que concerne les chiffres de la population Chrétienne; il permettra à votre Excellence de se rendre compte de la situation vraie et de la proportion des éléments divers qu'il s'agit de sauvegarder.

En admettant que l'on puisse, en ce qui n'est pas juste en fait, considérer tous les nomades comme Musulmans, la population Chrétienne est encore de beaucoup la plus importante; quant à la population Musulmane proprement dite elle n'en représente pas même le tiers.

Je crois inutile d'appeler l'attention de votre Excellence sur les considérations que provoque l'examen de ces éléments statistiques; je sais combien votre Excellence est déjà disposée en faveur de la cause des Arméniens, qui est celle de l'humanité et de la justice.

Je prie votre Excellence d'agréer avec mes remercîments pour le passé, et pour l'avenir, l'assurance, &c.

(Signé) Patriarche NERCÈS.

Inclosure 3 in No. 273.

Tableau comparatif de la Population Mixte dans les Six Vilayets.

	Erzéroum.	Van (Moucho, Bitlis).	Sivas.	Karpout.	Diarbékir.	Alep.	Total.	Total.	Total Général.
Arméniens—									
Arméniens	110,000	230,000	40,000	140,000	80,000	80,000	700,000		
„ Catholiques ..	10,000	2,000	10,000	5,000	8,000	10,000	45,000		
„ Protestants ..	1,000	500	2,000	10,000	800	500	14,800		
„ Grecs ..	..	..	..	3,000	..	..	3,000		
„ Alévis Kizilbach	10,000	..	5,000	..	..	..	15,000		
„ Pechas ..	3,000	..	..	..	..	..	3,000		
	134,000	252,500	57,000	158,000	88,800	90,500	..	780,800	
Grecs—									
Grecs	5,000	..	5,000	2,000	5,000	..	17,000		
„ Catholiques ..	..	..	..	..	..	6,000	6,000		
	5,000	..	5,000	2,000	5,000	6,000	..	23,000	
Syriens—									
Syriens Nestoriens ..	..	85,000	..	5,000	40,000	40,000	170,000		
„ Catholiques ..	..	..	..	..	15,000	66,000	81,000		
	..	85,000	..	5,000	55,000	106,000	..	251,000	
									1,054,800
Turcs—									
Turcs	50,000	20,000	50,000	60,000	40,000	50,000	270,000		
Circassiens	10,000	..	15,000	10,000	15,000	..	50,000		
	60,000	20,000	65,000	70,000	55,000	50,000	..	320,000	
Mélangés—									
Yézidis	..	20,000	..	..	5,000	..	25,000		
Tchinglianes	10,000	..	..	5,000	..	5,000	20,000		
Kizilbach	..	..	..	15,000	15,000	..	30,000		
Juifs	..	1,500	..	..	..	..	1,500		
	10,000	21,500	..	20,000	20,000	5,000	..	76,500	
Nomades—									
Kurdes Kazas	60,000	70,000	15,000	30,000	..	15,000	190,000		
„ Alévis	..	..	..	10,000	30,000	..	50,000		
„ Arabes	..	..	..	..	30,000	40,000	70,000		
„ Afghans	..	..	..	..	..	10,000	10,000		
„ Bédouins Fabis ..	..	40,000	..	..	..	..	40,000		
Turcomans	..	..	..	..	..	20,000	20,000		
	60,000	110,000	15,000	40,000	70,000	85,000	..	380,000	
									776,500
									1,831,300

Inclosure 4 in No. 273.

Lieutenant-Colonel Wilson to Mr. Goschen.

Dear Mr. Goschen, *Constantinople, June* 30, 1880.

ON looking through my papers yesterday evening, I found translations of the documents on which I based my estimate of the proportion of Christians to Moslems in the Sivas Vilayet. The originals are at Sivas.

The estimates are:—

	Christians.	Moslems.	Total.
Armenian Bishop of Sivas	201,245	694,437	895,682
Abedin Pasha (official)	71,587	292,302	363,889
Government Clerk (private)	68,210	289,083	357,293

My own rough estimate was a total of 350,000, or 265,000 Moslems and 85,000 Christians, and I thought it at the time an over rather than under estimate.

The Bishop's estimate, which I had some difficulty in obtaining from him, is greatly exaggerated.

I have thought over the question of a rough census of Armenia, and believe it could be made by employing all the officers and one of General Hamley's staff in about three months. It would, however, be an expensive work, as famine prices prevail in most of the districts.

Captains Everett and Clayton are already in Armenia, and Captain Stewart, Lieutenants Chermside and Bennet, might be sent from Anatolia.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 5 in No. 273.

Census given by Vali, November 1879.

Sivas Sandjak.

Musulmans.	Christians.
24,908	17,723
111,362	23,230
913	249
841	..
4,094	..
142,708	41,202

Amasia Sandjak.

24,292	9,519
83,735	5,246
108,034	14,765

Kara-Hissar Sandjak.

3,239	3,824
27,213	11,656
11,108	1,140
41,560	16,620

	Musulmans.	Christians.
Sivas Sandjak	142,708	41,202
Amasia Sandjak	108,034	14,765
Kara-Hissar Sandjak	41,560	16,620
	292,302	71,587

Supplied by Abédine Pasha. Turkish original at Sivas.
Translated by M. Tchetchian, my Armenian Dragoman.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

June 20, 1880.

Inclosure 6 in No. 273.

Census, November 1877.

Musulmans	289,083
Christians	68,216

Supplied (privately) by a clerk in the Defterdar's (Accountant-General's) office.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

June 20, 1880.

Inclosure 7 in No. 273.

Names of Towns.	Names of Cazas.	No. of Nahiés.	Names of Nahiés.	No. of Villages.	Total No. of Population.	Armenians.	Kizilbashs (Shi'ites) and Turks (Sunnis).	Kurds.	Circassians.
Sivas ..	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	33,137	14,500	18,437	..	200
	.. ..	..	.. ..	..	17,881	9,884	4,700	3,000	300
	Hafik ..	..	Kourbash ..	..	2,680	..	680	2,000	..
		1	Toghanli ..	17	3,836	..	3,836	..	..
		1	Zara ..	1	3,431	1,431	1,000	..	..
	Kotchhiss ..	1	Baly Tagh ..	100	7,630	500	1,130	6,000	300
		1	Sivas Ili ..	18	13,000	5,000	8,000	..	..
		1	Tebi ..	30	2,809	409	403	2,000	..
		1	Karrahel ..	30	3,106	..	106	1,000	..
		1	Ilaiasli ..	35	3,251	2,000	254	1,000	6,500
		1	Yildiz Ili ..	183	21,512	3,600	4,500	..	4,500
	Yeni-Ilan ..	1	Ghehnezel ..	..		..	3,412	..	610
		..	.. ..	..	5,810	1,400	3,000	600	810
	Kanjal ..	1	Kanjal ..	60	2,364	500	1,500	164	200
		1	Dilktash ..	4	5,040	80	3,190	490	280
		1	Asbodi ..	20	1,742	..	1,380	343	..
		1	Aladja-Han ..	6					
	Tecat ..	6	Neighbourhood ..	171	124,246	38,635	55,695	17,106	12,890
	Darondi ..	..	.. ..	20	61,272	13,500	23,624	9,148	15,000
	Divrik ..	7	.. ..	128	18,924	2,000	15,000	1,424	..
	Gueren ..	..	.. ..	57	60,878	15,050	43,278	2,000	..
	Tufar ..	..	Neighbourhood ..	114	18,780	8,830	7,900	1,550	430
	Arzrik ..	3	.. ..	251	32,272	10,000	12,272	..	3,000
	7 cazas ..	6	.. ..	656	86,944	8,000	44,944	6,500	28,500
	5	18	.. ..	668	308,000	52,000	210,000	20,000	26,000
Amasia ..	..	12	.. ..		181,920	53,000	117,000	11,920	..
Kara-Hissar ..	..	..	.. ..	2,385	93,676	201,245	536,939	68,698	88,870

Observations.

Amongst 68,698 Kurds it is said that there are hardly 1,000 Sunnis (Turks); the remainder Shi'ite.

Amongst 536,913 Turks it is said that nearly half are Kizil Bachis (Shi'ite), but they cannot profess it.

In Sivas there are 200 Mahommedan gipsies that are to be deducted from the number of the Turks.

The total and proportions of the Kizil Bachis (Shi'ites) are much exaggerated.

Supplied at my request by the Armenian Bishop of Sivas.

Original at Sivas.

Translated by M. Tchetchian, my Armenian Dragoman.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

June 29, 1880.

No. 274.

Memorandum by Mr. Wartmann, of Bagdad, respecting Asiatic Turkey.

IN attempting to add to what has already been said with regard to the defects of the Turkish Government, the cupidity of its officials, the rapacity of a certain class of its inhabitants, and, indeed, with everything of interest in regard to the present history of this vast country, I beg to state that I have no pretensions whatever to throwing greater light on the subject, but I have simply aimed at placing on record the observations I have made during a sojourn of nineteen years as a merchant in those near and yet inaccessible parts of the Turkish dominions. During that period I was constantly brought into contact with the Arab and Kurdish tribes, a daily intercourse with whom enabled me to become acquainted with the really sore points in their condition and that of their country, and to hear the undisguised wishes and aspirations of those populations.

I need not repeat a description of the present state of things, nor dwell any longer than is absolutely necessary upon the sources to which it could easily be traced.

In many instances I found an utter despair in the possibility of any real amelioration being effected, and this is the principal, and perhaps only, reason for the corruption which exists amongst all those who occupy influential positions, whether civil or military. Others, and these are probably in the majority, find themselves, so to say, obliged to seek a living by dishonest means for the following reasons:—

1st. That they are not regularly paid.

2nd. That they never can feel secure in the positions they hold.

3rd. That they are obliged to have money at their disposal, or rather, at the disposal of their superiors, in order to keep their places or to improve their positions.

4th. That they must follow the general example, and swim with the tide, if they do not wish to sink. It would be impossible for an official to obtain bribes if there was no one to offer them; and I have no doubt that the population is, in this respect, as much to blame as its administrators.

In consequence of oppression on the part of Government and the higher classes, the population has been made what it is; that is, an ill-treated, but easily-governed, cowardly mob, with whom unanimity of proceeding is nearly out of the question, for each man mistrusts his neighbour, and is ready to sacrifice him for the merest trifle. If we hear of a revolution amongst some of the tribes, it is either due to the intrigues of Government officials, who know how to take advantage of it, or owing to family questions amongst the Sheikhs. In a very few cases, such as, for instance, the rising of the Kurds, under Sheikh Obeyd Allah, in the vicinity of Mossoul, the action is premeditated, combined, and has a positive object in view. It is not to be wondered, therefore, if these Kurdish tribes are tired of having their youths carried off by force, to be made soldiers, and of being robbed of their earnings by the representatives of a Government who does nothing whatever for their welfare, but leaves them too much to allow them to starve, and not enough to keep them alive

I have no doubt that the intelligence received from the annexed northern populations induces them to believe that a Russian Government would be quite a boon when compared to Turkish rule. I have seen and spoken with many a soldier returned from Russian captivity, but never found one that expressed regret at the conclusion of peace. Many of their comrades remained in Russia, and their opinions, however false, contribute largely to the keener discontent and unhappiness felt under the present rule. Adding to these circumstances the continually increasing pressure for new taxes, the undying spirit of independence of these mountaineers, and their conviction that their oppressors are no longer in a position entirely to subjugate them, are, no doubt, the cause of the late movement under their Chief, Obeyd Allah. This Sheikh is respected for his position, energy, wealth, and sincere wish to free the nation from a long-detested yoke. In this he will find the support of the whole population, extending from Armenia down to the River Zââb, having Persia for an eastern frontier and the Tigris for a western border.

The difference of religion between Mahommedans, Jacobites, Nestorians, and Yessedies seems at the present moment to be forgotten till the common enemy be driven away, when Russian and Persian intrigues will not fail to sow the seeds of rivalry between the diverging creeds. Who can tell to what extent the former are already busy in this matter?

A line of frontier like the Tigris is not to be despised as a strategical position by an enemy bound for the south-east, and having to deal on the whole route with a divided population of different tribes, whose only point of agreement is their present deep-rooted antipathy to their actual masters.

What we witness in Kurdistan is only the more openly-declared feeling of all the rest of the population, from the Persian Gulf to the Black Sea.

Only a few months ago I passed through Asia Minor. Obeyd Allah had already declared his intentions to the Turkish authorities at Mossoul, who, however, never dreamt of taking his complaints into consideration, or of trying to mend matters.

On my way to Diarbekir I passed many hours during the hot July days in the miserable huts of the poor villagers. One day with Mussulmans, the next with Jacobites, or any other of the dozen Christian sects, hearing many tales and complaints without end, which did not in the least astonish me, because I was long since used to the bad behaviour of the villagers towards each other, supported as they are in this by the local authorities themselves. The good news had just reached them that the Imperial Commissioner, Menassir Effendi, had arrived at Mardin, and would soon proceed to Nissibin and Djezireh to put everything straight and prevent injustice for evermore. Poor deceived people! Unfortunate Commissioner! What endless trouble he vainly took in attempting to know the real truth, to find the clue to the unhappy condition of each separate village with the originators of the evil as informants! What good can he possibly do? His trouble will be very badly rewarded, because the result can neither be agreeable to his superiors nor beneficial to his inferiors.

The inhabitants of two villages had determined to await the arrival of the reformer before abandoning their home entirely for some new place, probably Kurdistan, where they would increase the number of the discontented and desperate.

Abeddin Bey, His Majesty's Chief Commissioner for Armenistan, despaired of finding any effective way of ameliorating the condition of the population in Diarbekir or of increasing its revenue.

Left without means, not having even sufficient money to pay the soldiers or the newly-raised gendarmerie, ill-supported by the Governor-General, surrounded by the intrigues of a Prince of the Imperial Family exiled to Diarbekir, and with a revolution between the Armenians in the town itself, his failure was inevitable. He was most anxious to improve the communications with Diarbekir, and he offered me a concession for a road thence to the Mediterranean, under any conditions, as well as the right to employ the considerable water-power in the town for industrial enterprise. Certainly both these schemes offered favourable opportunities for the employment of European capital, but it was not in my power to do anything, as capitalists in Europe prefer to invest their funds in countries better known though more distant.

On my way to Samsoun I happened to be at Sivas on the day when Colonel Wilson arrived there. The Governor-General was at a watering-place a few miles out of town, and was represented by the Defterdar (head constable), who did every-

thing he decently could to show the population how unwelcome the Colonel's arrival was at head-quarters.

Thousands of Armenians had, on the other hand, gone out to meet the Consul-General, who was pledged to bring with him liberty, security, and happiness for all. When about to proceed on my journey, a friend strongly advised me (for the first time during the whole route) to take an escort, on account of the Circassians who infested the country. A worthy captain of these guests on Turkish dominions, who sat near my friend at the door of the stable where horses were being got ready, asked him where I intended to go. To my surprise my friend replied that I was bound for Diarbekir. On my inquiring why he told the man the opposite direction to that in which I was going, my friend said he knew this captain to be head of the bands who went out at night-fall to attack travellers, and thought it better to send him in the opposite direction. In a small village, only 28 miles from Samsoon, I took a rest in the house of a Christian, and was waiting for some milk when an Armenian priest arrived with a small caravan. After much conversation, the topics of which were, of course, the "Government," the old man told me that he was now on his fifth journey to Constantinople to entreat the authorities to do something for the Armenians near Erzeroum, but that this would be the last journey he should take, as they could stand it no longer, and, after all, men were made to work and not to be treated as so many slaves. I should not wonder if, before long, a general rising in the Vilayet of Erzeroum were announced; and then beware of the desperate cruelty of men long accustomed to a tyrannical yoke when once they set aside their fear and their cowardice.

Under these circumstances, which can be taken as an example of every corner of the Turkish Empire, reforms are ordered and desired to be carried out without delay.

In all the publications up to this date I have not yet seen a full programme of what must be done. Changes must be made in the system of administration, in the collection of tithes and taxes; the gendarmerie must henceforward keep public order and make the highways safe; but no one can seriously expect the Turkish Government to be capable of this. Even supposing the pecuniary means for carrying out reform in any shape to be at its disposal, Government has at this present moment neither the moral nor the physical power to effect these alterations. Too much is expected at one moment by every part of the country, and two strong parties are working with all their power to paralyze any efforts that the Government might make in order to comply with the dictations of the European Powers and to carry out the stipulations of the Berlin Treaty.

One of these parties consists of the bulk of the oligarchy, whose partisans are very anxious not to lose the net by which they are always sure to catch their prey.

The second is perhaps the more numerous, more difficult to deal with or to overcome—the so-called aristocracy of the law.

Oppressing the middle-lower class of the population for their own private benefit to a higher degree than Government itself, they are at the head of public affairs, and always, for reasons sufficiently well-known, on the best terms with the authorities. The latter cannot carry their object without their concurrence; they have to apply to them for their sanction to every measure in contemplation for the country's welfare, and they are always exposed to their intrigues in the Local Administration as well as in Constantinople.

Is it so surprising, then, to see this class of men avoid all the heavier claims of the Turkish Imperial Treasury, and throw them on the shoulders of the working class, who are completely at their mercy?

This power is the one with which reformers will have to fight principally. Should the moral influence they possess be insufficient, these are the very men to excite the religious fanaticism of the mob, and then to abandon the guilty to their fate if the result of their efforts be unsatisfactory.

Considering impartially and collectedly the pros and cons of the present state, and the expected changes, it seems almost impossible to come to any beneficial solution.

Diplomacy interferes in all manner of ways, but without any real success, and I believe that the only reason for this failure is that it has never had any defined programme to show the Turkish Government and people what must be done, what can be done, and what will be done in spite of any opposition which either might strive to throw in the reformer's way.

It is scarcely necessary for me to define the object of European intervention; but if we suppose the real welfare of the inhabitants to be the principal care of the friends of Turkey, it still remains to be proved practically.

There cannot be the slighest doubt, if England takes it in hand energetically, to ameliorate the condition of the people, keeping at the same time in view the necessity of increasing the vital power of the Turkish Government, both parties will very soon recognize the effort made, and give the reformer all their support.

Joining their mutual endeavours for the same end, they must in a short time overcome the aristocratic party, which would see itself internally divided and isolated.

Even the Palace intrigues in Constantinople would fail to succeed if His Majesty the Sultan could see his way clear to a quieter existence, which, by giving him new strength, would justify his hopes of a better era in his reign.

He would be indifferent as to the names of those in whose hands the destiny of his Empire would be trusted, provided that, guided by European influence, and under its surveillance they, the parties concerned, intended to promote the real good of his country and dynasty.

Who is to bring matters to this point?

Only the one Power, which would be selected by the others, to take the practical part in her hands. Supported, as her Representative in Constantinople would be, by the great majority of his colleagues, very few difficulties would be thrown in the way of her progress and success.

As to the choice of those who are nominally to have the executive power at Constantinople it matters little. The Ministry, supported and guided by the European Representatives, should be composed of well-meaning men, who take a sincere interest in the future welfare of the country, and I believe that half-a-dozen such can still be found, notwithstanding the numerous defects implanted by long years of misrule.

Having gone so far, let us consider what are the proposals made for carrying out the reforms, how far they are, in some instances, advisable, how they could be brought into execution, what part is to be taken in the task by the Turkish Government, by the inhabitants, and by foreign influence, to what extent they must necessarily affect the political constitution, and what is to be expected from a financial point of view.

As already stated, a stormy and stubborn opposition is to be expected, not only from head-quarters at Constantinople, but also (and perhaps still more) from the multitude of officials spread over the whole country.

Before searching for the necessary weapons wherewith to fight these enemies of progress, let us first discuss the extent of the reforms, which, according to the characteristics of the different parts of Asiatic Turkey, must be contemplated for every one of them separately.

Many of these extensive lands are utterly unripe for liberal reform; in fact, it would make the people unhappy, and most probably cause a state of anarchy worse than exists at the present moment. Others are more likely to understand the meaning of the word "liberty," and are better prepared to receive and to gradually appreciate the benefit of liberal laws. A few, but those very important points of the Empire, have already a certain varnish of civilization; and these are, to my judgment, the least easy to deal with, corruption of every description having spread most extensively through their classes.

The exact etiology of the different nations and races of which the population of Asiatic Turkey is composed is beyond my powers. My acquaintance with many of them is intimate, but I am only prepared to speak from personal experience during my intercourse with those races, whose customs, cherished hopes, financial position, and political opinions are familiar to me, and with whose troubles I sympathize.

The whole immense country from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, Red Sea, and Persian Gulf, can be roughly divided into two parts, differing politically the one from the other.

First we have the "Ethnarchies," formed by certain natural geographical boundaries, inhabited for centuries by the same nation of one race and one creed.

These are comparatively few in number, but they extend over the greater part of Asiatic Turkey.

Beginning in the south we find the Arabs of Yemen and Arabia Felix, who,

divided amongst themselves into numerous tribes, each of them under the command of its own Sheikh, occupy separate tracts of land, generally known by the name of the tribe to which it serves as a "pied-à-terre."

Proceeding north-eastwards, we find the same to be the case near the coast of the Persian Gulf, extending westwards to Djebell-Shamar, and the border of the Syrian desert, where the Shunieh forms some sort of neutral zone, and serves as a play-ground for the surrounding Anizig and Shamar tribes.

Following the course of the River Shat-el-Arabe we find both banks occupied by a number of tribes, each assigned to a certain plot of ground, each having its own habits and peculiarities, and each proud of its pedigree and unwilling to mix with its neighbours.

Even in the immense plantations of palm trees, extending from Tao up to Koornah, a distance of about 90 miles, the cultivators and labourers of the same tribe form themselves into separate groups, according to the different villages to which they belong. From Koornah, at the junction of the Euphrates and Tigris, and along the banks of both rivers, we can observe the same division amongst a few powerful tribes, themselves subdivided into a large number of petty tribes, such as the Montefek, Baurlam, Suad Elbu-Mohamed, Elbufurratch, Thamar-togar, and others, every one of which is again subject to scores of subdivisions.

Farther up the Euphrates, from Divanieh to Hillah, Meschevaly Negeff, Hurdieh, Kherbilai, and Takla-wiah, the distinctions are still apparent, although the inhabitants (the greater part of whom have settled down and devoted themselves to agriculture) are less particular in mixing with each other, and have entirely lost what we will call the "gentlemanly" and chivalrous character of the Bedouins.

It is the same case on the Tigris in the vicinity of Bagdad, and up the River Diala, with its vast network of canals to the Persian frontier, a large number of tribes, and fractions of tribes, are exclusively agriculturists.

It is only on the right side to the west of the Euphrates above Hitthat that we find the nomads forming the powerful tribe of Anyreh, who sometimes approach Bagdad in order to barter horses, sheep, wool, and camels (their chief articles of commerce), in exchange for the few things needed for their food and dress; whilst they occasionally visit the markets of Homs, Hama, Aleppo, and Damascus for the same purpose.

Their nearest neighbours towards the east are the Shamars, with whom they are for ever at war, each in turn robbing the other of herds and cattle.

The Shamar occupies the right bank of the Tigris, from Takla-wiah to the Chabur River and Tekrit Mossoul, extending from the latter place north-west to Nissibin, Mardin, and due west to near Orfa. They are, or should be, under the direct command of Perhan, the eldest of their Sheikhs, elevated to the rank of Pasha (Mirmiram) by the Turkish Government, who give him a monthly allowance of 5,000 piastres (50*l.*), and make him responsible for the good behaviour of his Arabs. Perhan's own brothers, however, now and then separate their adherents from the bulk of the tribe and fight with him and his Turkish troops at their leisure, or rob an occasional caravan or some friendly tribe, but devote themselves chiefly to the annoyance of the Circassians established on the north-west corner of the Plain of Nissibin, on whom they generally inflict a thorough beating.

If we add to these different tribes the Obeyd Arabs and several lesser groups who dwell on the left bank of the Tigris north of Bagdad, and eastward to the foot of the mountains of Kurdistan, scarcely reaching as far as the Zaab-el-Seghir by Altyn Koppri, we have completed the list composing the one nation, which, divided into a multitude of groups, each with its own ethnarque, still represents an important element of the Turkish Empire, to whose authority it tacitly submits.

This most valiant and intelligent people, occupying an area more than equal in size to France, Spain, and England together, of which the greater part is open to cultivation, and only awaits hands wherewith to pour forth its riches, are comparatively little molested by the Turkish officials. So long as their Sheikhs pay to Government the fixed tribute or the sum of money for which they bought from the latter the right to levy the taxes established by law, they are allowed to regulate the distribution of these taxes according to their own taste and convenience, to settle all difficulties between their subjects, to judge and punish civil and criminal offences. Only in a very few instances and where the local authorities are near at hand are they ever applied to.

Under these circumstances, it might be supposed that these populations enjoyed a species of autonomy, and must feel comparatively happy in their independence.

They might undoubtedly feel so if their own Chiefs did not continually abuse their authority, treating the poor Arab worse than a slave, plundering him in every way, making him pay not only his own share of the taxes added to that of the Sheikhs, but more than double the amount besides, till the poor persecuted fellow is often obliged to apply to the Turkish authorities for redress.

Here reform, as we understand it, would be utterly useless, even if it were possible to try it.

What the people want is a strong and energetic Government, with an iron hand, strictly just, but anxious to protect the interests of the lower classes against the exactions of the Sheikhs on the one side and the petty local administration on the other.

A few years of severe but equitable government have now and then wonderfully improved the condition of the Arabs, but every change brought with it a change of measures which overthrew the good which had been done before and brought the prosperity of the country to a standstill. Still, I am convinced that many of these tribes are far better off as to general welfare than they were twenty years ago.

This is, in truth, only one in a small measure to the Turkish Government, the principal cause being the increase of means of communication, through the development of the steam and native boat navigation on the rivers.

The riches of the country could be so easily increased and exploited if Government would only give its consent and moral support to those who are willing to use their knowledge and influence in the service of the country, to the mutual advantage of governing and governed. What grateful and extensive fields of enterprise would be opened to capitalists if the Turks would only forget the jealousy with which they eye every successful foreign undertaking, and would understand that the inhabitants have not yet acquired either the experience or the necessary means for taking the initiative into their own hands.

In a country where for hundreds of miles the engineer can lay down his rails without obstruction, where splendid rivers are open to navigation, and easily adapt themselves to the irrigation of thousands and thousands of acres of the richest soil, only the good-will of head-quarters is required to attract capital, and to render its people one of the richest and happiest.

The present income of this part of the Turkish Empire scarcely represents one-half of what is collected directly from the tax-payer, and could be increased to a large extent without any new charges being laid on the people. If it were made less difficult for them to pay what is now expected from them there would be this difference, that the money, instead of passing through so many interested channels, would all flow into the Imperial Treasury. I will endeavour by a few details to prove the possibility of this increase of revenue, and as the system could be employed here it might find a similar application in other parts of the Turkish Empire. The Codah, or "Estehkah-el-Ghonain," is a tax on cattle, a fixed sum to be paid annually on every head.

A yearly payment is exacted of 2½ piastres, or *5d.*, on every sheep; 5 piastres, or *10d.*, on every cow; and 10 piastres, or *1s. 8d.*, on every buffalo. Before the division of Irack-Arabi into the Vilayets of Bassora, Medjid, Bagdad, and Mossoul, the total revenue from this tax did not exceed 5,000 liras, while the following items will show how far below the real sum this amount is:—

The exportation of wool amounts to about 25,000 bales, each of which contains on an average 185 fleeces, representing a total of 4,625,000 fleeces, every one of which is certainly the produce of one sheep. The local consumption for industrial purposes is about 5,000 bales, or, according to the former average of contents, equal to 925,000 fleeces. The town of Bagdad consumes daily about 900 sheep, or, during the year, 328,500, to which I only add 500,000 for all the rest of the province, giving us a total of 5,378,500 sheep, which, at the rate of 2½ piastres per head, should pay 159,462·50 liras. Taking 20 per cent. of the above number for goats, another 31,894·50 liras have to be added, to which amount we may give in addition 30,000 liras for cattle and buffaloes, an estimation which is rather below the mark than otherwise, and this gives us 221,355 liras, or nearly three times the amount of the actual 75,000.

The owner of the cattle, moreover, gains no benefit from the lax payment of the tax. Amongst the Arabs the Codah is collected by the Sheikh, who settles with Government, and you may depend on it that he knows the exact quantity of sheep possessed by his tribe.

There is a very simple method by which the payment of this special tax might be insured, namely, in the following manner:—

All this wool is shipped in one of the Turkish ports, chiefly at Bassora, or in very small quantities at Alexandretta. Every bale is supposed to contain on an average so many fleeces, an amount which could easily be verified.

If the merchant were made to pay the above tax on the fleeces he exports, it would rest with him to settle with the Arab from whom he buys his wool.

I should advise Government to abstain from levying any tax on the wool consumed in the country, as this would greatly encourage native industry.

The number of sheep killed in the different towns could easily be estimated by controlling the tax at 5 piastres, which the butcher has to pay on every head he brings to the slaughter-house.

The hides of cows and buffaloes being equally brought to the market, the shortest plan would be to tax their number. As for the live stock, its number can be much more easily ascertained than that of the sheep, for the former remain through the year in the same place, whilst the latter wander about.

These alterations would not only contribute to the increase of the revenue, but would also encourage the rearing of cattle, and thereby augment the wealth of the country. At the same time, a guarantee could be given that the amount of the taxes should be paid into the Treasury at a fixed date every year, and consequently could be used for the amortization of the public debt, or at least of its interests. Now, everybody will naturally raise this objection, and ask who is to be trusted with the gathering of the taxes. I should propose a committee of merchants in every province, at which one or two at least of the resident European merchants would have a leading voice. In this manner it would be against their own interests to favour fraud, as thereby they would enable others to rise in competition with them, and perhaps find them too strong to cope with. The Report of the Committee, signed by all the members, would be forwarded to Government, and the Treasury would be made responsible for the amount stated therein, unless Government and the European Powers should find it more convenient to authorize the said Committee to receive the taxes and keep the amount at their disposition.

As it could be done in our province, there is nothing to prevent Government from effecting this in all the others, and thereby one of the principal items of revenue would be fairly secured in every respect.

The Province of Bagdad, of which I first began to speak, intending gradually to proceed north and west, is perhaps not only the largest in extent, but the easiest to reform or govern, for the simple reason that we find here only a very restricted number of Christians and Israelites, and that the whole remainder of the population belonging to the same nation and the same religion are less quickly excited to fanaticism. At the same time, Government possesses in this part of its dominions large tracts of land which are cultivated by the Arab tribes or the settled population.

This is the general proportion by which crops are divided:—One-third goes to the landowner (in other words, the Government); another to the individual who advances the seeds; and the last to the labourer. This last third is again differently disposed of according to the custom, which varies in diverse parts of the province.

Some of the lands are prepared exclusively for the cultivation of rice, whilst others, more suitable for winter and summer crops, such as wheat, barley, peas, beans, dholl, grain, maize, millet, sesame, hemp, flax, cotton, &c., are of course in the most neglected condition. Cultivated capriciously, regularly handed over every two years to the highest bidder (if their cultivation be not for the advantage of Government itself, which is the worst that can happen to them), nobody ever cares to improve the soil, which must be of the best quality in any way to resist such treatment, and would most largely repay any trouble taken for its improvement. If Government would sell these lands, even at a very low price, a considerable sum would be realized without in the slightest degree diminishing the revenue of the Treasury. I feel certain that any day Government chooses to sell the land, on the condition that the buyer continues to pay the same price every year as he pays for it then, a fair sum could be got out of it, and the amount would greatly contribute to the relief of the present impoverished condition of the Imperial Treasury.

During the period that Midhat Pasha was Governor-General of Bagdad a great many of these lands were sold, and experience has proved that the income, which is now sold every year by auction, equals the former revenue of the Government, although the percentage on the crops is reduced to the half of what it was formerly.

Besides the revenue brought in by the cultivated tracts called "Emlák-i-Mirié" and "Tapoo," there are the tithes paid by numerous private proprietors.

The method of collecting tithes is the same all over Turkey, and could scarcely be worse.

Of all the suggestions made up to this day for the improvement of this system, for the prevention of annoyance and injustice, and the averting in many cases of the actual ruin of the agriculturist, the one most easy of adoption and most eagerly welcomed by the population is that which counsels that every plot of ground should be measured, and an estimate made of its power of production; that a certain sum should be fixed to be paid in cash every year sixty days after the harvest, or in natural products, the price of each several article being regulated according to the position of the ground and to the greater or less facility of carriage to the proper market.

Having the land surveyed by Committees belonging to the district, whose Report would be verified by an impartial Mixed Commission, and afterwards confronted by the Return taken during the previous five years, we should arrive at a very nearly exact estimate, although slight mistakes might occasionally arise; still the land-owner, or agriculturist, would know his liabilities beforehand, and feeling himself to be the only master would work with pleasure to improve his land, whilst Government would be in a position to make a definite calculation of its expected income.

The first consequence of such systematic procedure would be the riddance of the people from a set of leeches, by which they would gain a feeling of greater independence and an increase of moral courage for the prevention of abuses.

To rule a thus easily contented people would be such an easy task for the Government that it would be able to pay more attention to the real welfare and progress of the country, and consequently enjoy greater credit in its own land as well as with the outer world; in one word, Turkey would feel itself a new-born creation.

There is not the slightest doubt that as soon as the people felt happier their pecuniary position would rapidly improve, and their present very doubtful moral character be exchanged for a new and better one.

If once you succeed in producing a change for the better amongst the population, Government is bound to follow this up, or to collapse if the reverse.

A happy people will immediately feel the necessity of improving its intellectual condition by means of education.

I thoroughly believe that this is one way by which progress in Asiatic Turkey can be promoted, and for the present I see no better one. Wherever you look around this vast part of the Sultan's dominions, you scarcely find a single nationality of whatever creed which is capable of receiving and appreciating political liberty; they are not even ready for the rudiments of political education. What they require is security in their own homes, and for the proceeds of their labour equity and justice amongst themselves, protection from the higher classes, and liberty to employ their hands and intellects for their own benefit as well as they can.

So far I believe myself to have touched on the two most important sources of revenue, and to have given my ideas concerning the changes, which I think not only possible, but most urgent in the interest of all concerned for that part of the country of which I have been speaking.

Starting from the Red Sea, we can apply these measures from a general point of view to the immense land known as Arabia, Irack-Arabia, Mesopotamia, Shumiah, the Syrian desert, Shakrozool, with the "Little Zaab" to the north, the Kurdish mountains east, the Anti-Lebanon west, as frontiers.

Let us proceed north and north-east from the Zaab, and visit Kurdistan for a few moments.

Here we enter into an entirely different country, make acquaintance with an entirely different people, and contemplate new scenery.

From the monotonous plains we come to a hilly and picturesque part of the Ottoman Empire, gradually ascending to higher mountains, where the scenery is as grand as that of any other part of the world.

We still tread on classical ground, the home of the Chaldeans, whose language and descendants survive to the present day. But instead of finding one nation, one religion, and one general language, we meet at every step a variety of race, possessed of different religions and separate tongues.

In turning to the north-east, direct from Cuffri (Sulekieh) to Suleimanieh, on the Persian frontier, we meet with scarcely any other people but Kurds, who,

settled down in numerous villages, spend their time in cultivating their land and looking after their herds and cattle.

Ill-treated by the Government officials and despised by their neighbours, the Arabs, they submit passively to all, caring only for their material welfare. Even when plundered by their allies, the famous Hamawends, of all the tribes in the Turkish Empire the most resolute and daring, they do not put themselves out much, there being no one to whom they could look for assistance.

Further on to the north and west the villages begin to have different inhabitants. We find alternately Christian and Mussulman populations, the former subdivided again into Syrians, Chaldeans, Jacobites, Roman Catholics, and Nestorians, each hating the other in conformity with vehement religious rivalry.

In many places, for miles and miles together, we have villages whose inhabitants belong to the same creed, whilst in others every village shelters a different nationality. Occasionally we find some of all sects gathered together on the same spot.

The scenes which took place in the town of Mossoul in 1877, and which are renewed from time to time, between the Christians of the town and those of the surrounding districts, are already known, and throw a light on the state of things in this province, as well as on the character of its inhabitants.

Another clue to the disposition of the Mussulman population is given by the present revolution under the command of Sheikh Obeyd Allah in Kurdistan; and I should not be surprised to hear that it is entirely due to the instigation of a few chief families in the town of Mossoul, too well assisted as they are by the great delinquencies of the authorities.

As we draw near to Diarbekir we meet the Armenians, who principally occupy the eastern part, but actually spread over the whole of Asia Minor.

In many parts of the country they are almost the only inhabitants, and in others they are in the majority with respect to the other creeds. Further west they are more sparsely scattered, and mixed up with Greeks and Osmanlis.

This very intelligent and laborious nation suffers dreadfully from misrule on the one side, and from the ill-treatment and oppression of their fellow-countrymen on the other.

The Turkish Government has done nothing whatever as yet to deserve their sympathy, nor does it protect the sufferers in the least degree against the acts of injustice which are daily committed.

In the north of Asia Minor we find the Circassians partly settled down in villages, partly inhabiting the towns in the capacity of gendarmes. The conduct and character of this people are sufficiently known; they ill repay the kind reception they met with from the Turkish Government after they were driven away from their former homes by the civilizing Northern Power. I am however constrained to own that wherever I found a neat village systematically built, where good, rational cultivation of the soil and a general appearance of prosperity were obvious, I learnt that it was the home of this active and industrious tribe.

The Laskars, lately emigrated from the annexed provinces on the Black Sea, commit many acts of theft and pillage which are set down to the Circassians' account.

In the west of Anatolia the Greek element prevails, on which it is unnecessary to make any comments.

The populations in Syria and Lebanon consists of as many component parts as that of Asia Minor, but every one of them enjoys certain privileges peculiar to its requirements, and, politically speaking, we seldom hear of any strong desire for an alteration.

The most difficult task for the reformer is certainly to satisfy, not their wishes, which are in many instances quite ridiculous, but the really just claims of the population of Armenia and Asia Minor in general, for the redress of their wrongs, and for an alteration in the system of Administration, such as might enable them to live in security, and to earn their daily bread in peace, until time gives them the energy to improve their own condition, and to make progress, as we understand it.

Considering the geographical disposition of the country, and the irregular division of the different creeds in nearly every part of it, I believe the best way to arrive at a settlement of the question would be to divide the whole country into small cantons, and care should be taken, as much as possible, to bring together or group those villages which contained inhabitants of the same religion.

Where this could not be done satisfactorily, it would always be preferable to have a very large majority of either, as, where the numbers are more equally divided, intrigue and discontent are fostered.

A certain number of these cantons would form a district the internal administration of which should be in the hands of the inhabitants.

I am perfectly aware of the great difficulty involved in establishing the Administration of every canton.

The Turkish Government neither can nor will adopt the Constitution proposed some years ago by Midhat Pasha, and I myself consider that in a country like Asia Minor, with a population devoid of political or any other education, the experiment would prove an utter failure.

A great feeling of satisfaction would be created amongst the people if those petty questions, which are of no peculiar importance to the Government, were left to the inhabitants of each separate district to settle, according to their religion and their former habits.

The district, however, should elect a Council, responsible to Government for the public security, for the regular payment of the taxes, as well as for the right distribution of the latter.

All the expenses of the internal Administration would have to be defrayed by each district separately.

Every offence against the law liable to punishment for more than one month should be referred to a provincial jury.

The establishment of schools and the making of public roads should be supported by Government in proportion to the population and the importance of every district.

No military occupation would be necessary in these provinces with the exception of the principal towns and the frontiers. The public safety might be guaranteed by the appointment of gendarmes, taken from the population of the district, and properly drilled in the capital, before being allowed to go on active service.

This would at once greatly reduce the expenses of the Government with regard to the Administration and the army.

As, however, abuses will still be committed by those at the head of public affairs, we must provide for the protection of every one. The shortest and perhaps safest way to secure justice for everybody would be the following:—

If any one had to complain of a wrong sentence, of bad or unjust treatment by the District Council, or by a single individual belonging to the Administration, he should deliver a true statement of his case to a Commissary appointed by some European Government. The Commissary would have to verify the case, and investigate the matter with the aid of two men, chosen by himself, who must, of course, be cognisant of the case in hand. Having done this, a Report, signed by the Commissary and his assistants, should be handed to the Consul, who would then claim redress for the complainant. No notice of the complaint should be given to any body until the Commissary's Report was signed, as all the wrongs are generally committed by influential men against the weak, or by Judges, Government officials, &c., for the sake of bribes.

Wrongs are often borne in silence because a complaint would be referred for judgment to the very person who had committed the wrong, or because the complainant might, through his complaint, endanger his position, liberty, and perhaps his life.

The Turkish laws are excellent; better ones could not be desired, if only they could be properly enforced.

Bribery in law suits should be most severely punished, both in the person who offers the bribe and the one who accepts it. Any Government official found guilty of this offence should be irrevocably dismissed, and never be allowed to occupy another official position.

Although 90 per cent. of the actual Government employés are liable to corruption, the majority would become honest when an example had been made of some of them by means of severe punishments.

The robbery committed by those who are entrusted with the financial part of the Government work is another matter. In every department a kind of chain is formed, every part of which depends upon the other, and is strongly linked together by mutual responsibility.

These associations absorb a great part of the revenue, not only from that which is paid in by the tax-payers, but most especially from that which is not paid in by them, in consequence of the presents exacted from them.

It is scarcely necessary for me to repeat once more what has been already said scores of times before by other people.

Only I think it would be very easy to discover every official who is open to corruption. In many cases it is a matter of general calculation whether such a post is worth so much money over and above the regular pay.

Hundreds of pounds are given for places worth only from 3*l.* to 6*l.* per month, and the holders of them, as a rule, make their fortunes in a very short space of time.

Men with a fixed income, and without a farthing's worth of private fortune, live at the rate of an income four times as large; and yet no one ever inquires how they contrive to do it.

At the beginning of this Report I have already stated the principal reasons for such an enormous proportion of officials being open to bribery and corruption of every description.

Bad as things are, I still believe that many of these officials would be happy to be placed in a position in which they could be honest, and have full confidence in retaining it and enjoying it unmolested as long as they continued to be so.

But a man who is badly paid, and is obliged to mortgage his salary for six months (or more), at a reduction of 30 (or more) per cent., cannot be expected to resist temptation which is always at hand in Turkey.

So long as he does not feel sure of retaining his position for life, and is, in fact, exposed to the danger of being dismissed so soon as any other is ready to step in with more money, he is obliged to do all he can to make money for himself.

How often has it been announced in Turkey that things have been partially altered, and will be put in proper working order? Yet up to this day nothing has been properly carried out, and everything is rapidly getting worse, until at the present moment, when reforms are daily spoken of, and Government finances are at their lowest ebb, every official seems to feel perfectly justified in saving for himself as much as he can out of the sinking wreck.

So long as there is nothing to inspire the administrators with confidence, and no one whose strong hand could stay the down-hill course to ruin, it is impossible for this state of affairs to be either altered or improved.

Whilst the old debts to functionaries are unpaid, and there seems no hope of the future regular payment of their salaries, or of the prospective stability of their positions, it is not possible for any feeling of confidence to exist.

Considering the desperate condition of Turkish finance at the present moment, and the necessity of satisfying in some way the Government officials, I think that, under these circumstances, the following suggestions may be found acceptable:—

The arrears of salary due to the officials in every province should be ascertained, and fixed in equal proportion to the monthly pay of every employé in such a manner as not only to affect the inferior classes, but also those in higher positions, who should have proportionately the same amount of monthly pay to receive. Those who, thanks to their influence, have been paid regularly, should either return to the Treasury the amount of arrears charged to them, or remain for a proportionate space of time without salary.

For the amount of arrears due to all the officials (beginning only with those who receive from 750 piastres and upwards per month) a bond should be delivered in the name of the creditor, and payable by the province in which the arrears became due. These bonds should bear interest at the rate of 5 per cent., and be paid in equal proportion at the close of every year out of any increase there may be over the usual amount of that province's income.

From the date of the delivery of these bonds the officials should be regularly paid every month, so that it might be to every man's interest to remain at his post to watch over and promote the payment of the taxes and to exert himself to the best of his ability to increase the revenue of his province.

This debt would be no burden to the Turkish Government, the Treasury would be able to make a proper Budget, and to realize without delay the actual revenue hitherto always absorbed beforehand by the arrears. Moreover, the holders of bonds might consider them as a certain guarantee of their claims, and by their own exertions accelerate their payment, or at least maintain their original value.

This affair, once properly arranged and carried through with strict impartiality, the whole machinery of Government would work with fewer hindrances.

I do not believe that great difficulties would be met with in the execution of the aforesaid scheme, as all the officials are perfectly aware of the fact that, unless energetic measures are taken, their present arrears, as well as their future position, are endangered, whilst this settlement of the arrears, and their conversion into a provincial debt, would inspire every one with confidence, and greatly assist the Administration to work with regularity.

If Government, supported and guided by impartial foreign advice, would supplement the above arrangement by a strict supervision of the different branches of the public service (besides the collection of taxes), and punish without repeal every one guilty of theft, negligence, or corruption, I feel sure that the result would soon prove far more satisfactory both to the inhabitants and to the Imperial Treasury than it has hitherto been.

Whilst these stringent measures were adopted by Government towards its officials, it would be necessary to keep a strict watch over the most influential of the inhabitants, as it is to their interest to keep things as they are; they must therefore be prevented from protecting their creatures and fomenting discontent and revolution amongst the lower classes.

If taxes are properly collected the most wealthy and influential will be the greatest sufferers, as up to this day they have only paid so much as they deemed necessary to save appearances, and for this reason they will do all they can to prevent the adoption of severe or impartial measures.

But to return to the Armenian provinces, the administration of which is the most difficult and demands the promptest reform, I have to add that, if the above reforms which I have suggested, and by which every district would have a home-administration adjusted to its special need, are carried out, we have not yet entirely secured their welfare, and other elements of disturbance remain to be taken into consideration. These are, in the first place, the higher clergy, who are under the influence of Russia, and the Mussulman population under that of the Aghas.

All the nationalities in the East, with very few exceptions, are divided amongst themselves by feelings of jealousy and petty differences, in consequence of which any unity of proceeding in matters of importance is easily prevented.

This is the case with regard to the Armenians over the whole of Asia Minor. A Bishop, appointed by the Patriarch at Constantinople, is liable to having a strong party in opposition supported by the Turkish authorities, or sometimes by Russian agents, when such scenes occur as during the last revolution at Diarbekir. In some places the positions are reversed, and there is consequently an open field for intrigues of every description.

These disturbances have perhaps contributed as much as Turkish misrule to the present condition of the population.

The Mussulman population, and especially the Aghas, who represent the country nobility, take full advantage of these intrigues, and do their best to increase the feeling of hatred amongst the Christians, who, being greatly in the majority, might have over-ruled them long ago if they had only been united.

As matters stand now, it is not only necessary to change the style of Turkish administration, but the hardest task of the reformer, and in which the real welfare of the people is concerned, consists in creating an unanimity of views amongst the Christian clergy, and in wresting those privileges from the Aghas which they use as weapons against the Christians and the Turkish Government.

It is in this part of Turkey more than in any other that fanaticism makes its home, and this must be checked before any real good can be done.

While the reforms would guarantee to every one the strict impartiality of the law, Christian and Mussulman must learn that they will no longer find encouragement in the stirring up of mutual jealousy and hatred.

I believe that the chief responsibility in this matter is to be laid on the country clergy and those in monasteries, but especially on the Patriarch at Constantinople, who is surrounded by Turkish, Russian, and Roman intrigues, and too often proves unequal to the difficult position he occupies.

In this part of Asia Minor, a prompt and just settlement of the land-tenure is urgently necessary. This alone will enable the different populations to devote their time and their intellect to the more useful occupation of improving their material welfare.

With regard to the financial part of the question, that must of course be arranged on the same principles in Armenistan as in the other provinces of Turkey.

Another most important question suggests itself to us: Ought the Christians to continue to pay the tax called "werguy," instead of having soldiers levied from amongst them, on the same conditions as from the Mussulmans?

I know and understand the reason why the Turkish Government is unwilling to receive Christians into the ranks of the army. It is a feeling of pride which makes the Turks think, that if the army is once composed of Mussulmans and Christians, the former will no longer be able to consider themselves as the only masters of the land, and the latter will have full right to look upon themselves as their equals.

Moreover, how could Mussulman principle be reconciled with the fact, that the army of the Prophet numbered in its ranks men of that race and religion against which the Turk is bound to fight till his last breath?

On the other hand, it is natural for such a Government to calculate the probable consequence of a large majority of the Christian population coming gradually into possession of military knowledge, and gaining partisans amongst those who hold high positions in the army.

But at the same time, I am convinced that if the Christians were received into the army, and kept separate from the others in distinct companies (although joined together in battalions under officers of either religion), after the first a feeling of brotherhood would naturally spring up, and link the whole corps together with the bonds of friendship.

This measure would greatly contribute towards a feeling of united nationality, not only in the army, but also amongst the inhabitants.

How often have I heard Mussulmans reproach Christians with the fact, that they got rid of the military duty by the payment of an annual trifle, whilst the sons of the Mussulmans were tied to their guns and exposed for years to every danger, chiefly for the protection of the Christians. Would not a sincere feeling of equality and a desire for mutual consolidation arise in the breasts of these men if their children were allowed to share the duties and dangers of a soldier's life in the protection of the Fatherland, the latter being an expression the full meaning of which is yet to be learned by the subjects of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan.

I am convinced that the consequences, both as regards the strength and the welfare of the Empire, would be highly satisfactory.

If only a very small proportion of Christians were received into the army, or separate battalions were raised in the Christian provinces, placed under the command of either Turkish or European officers, and entrusted with the care of the public safety, a strong corps might be formed and used for garrison work in any place where too much reliance cannot be placed on the Turkish troops.

If the Christian population were properly represented in the army, an important economy might be effected in the gendarmerie, which could then be greatly reduced.

Military service would infuse fresh spirit into the Christian population. The mere fact of being transferred into different provinces, and being detained there for some time, would give them a better knowledge of their country, and by the mutual interchange of views and sentiments enable them to form new bonds of friendship, and forward the interests of each other.

No extra expense would be incurred by the Imperial Treasury on account of the alterations in the local Administration; great economy might on the contrary be effected.

Notwithstanding this, it is utterly necessary for the Turkish Government, as it at present stands, to have a certain amount of capital at its disposal wherewith to satisfy the most pressing wants.

For many months it has been most astonishing that the machinery of Government was able to go on working. In any other country it would have broken down long before this. For my part, I attribute the fact, not only to the patience which is the general characteristic of the Mussulman, but to a conviction, which is intense at this moment, that Mahommedans must bear up as they can, lest the Ottoman Empire, whose whole constitution rests but on half-rotten pillars, should fall with a crash, and bury beneath its ruins all redemption from the past and all hope for the future.

On entering the Sublime Porte by the Department of Foreign Affairs I found an apt illustration of the present state of affairs in Turkey. The staircase leading to the Foreign Office runs along that part of the Palace which was burnt down two years

ago. The wall by the side of the staircase is partially broken down, and some of the beams which support the Foreign Office and rest on this wall are half burnt through, so that the slightest shake, such as the tumbling down of some loose stones from the wall, would inevitably bring down the whole of the Department!

All the foregoing suggestions are of but very little value unless I endeavour to show how the financial position of Turkey can be practically ameliorated, because it is only when the Government is able to find its way out of its present embarrassments that it can be expected to pay proper attention to the general reform of the different Administrations.

This result can only be obtained by the introduction of prompt and energetic reforms, in the first place, in the following branches of the financial system and the Customs. The Commercial Treaties made by Turkey with the European Powers are chiefly disadvantageous to her, in consequence of the rate adopted for the most important articles on which the supposed duty of 8 per cent. in reality only amounts to 3, 4, and 5 per cent. on their value. This rate of duty might easily be increased without any loss to European industries and to the great advantage of Turkish finances.

It is certainly necessary that a stricter control should be exercised over the officials belonging to the custom-house.

From my own experience as a merchant, I am led to suspect that one-third of the duty paid by the mercantile community goes anywhere but into the Imperial Treasury; and that probably a good share of the other two-thirds is diverted from its proper destination.

It would be a difficult task to secure the full proceeds of the Customs for Government, but if it is impossible to prevent all the abuses, it would at least be feasible to diminish them greatly.

Nearly all the custom-houses depend chiefly on the official called "Shâbander," the man who is supposed to verify the goods and to declare which class they belong to and their relative value in the market.

In some of the most important places the Shâbander receives a salary of 4*l.* per month, whilst, as a general rule, each Shâbander lives at the rate of 25*l.* or more per month, and has always some private property of his own.

Every new custom-house director seems to be very soon initiated into the habits of the place, and finds it to his interest to allow things to go on in their old way.

It would, however, be very easy to check the custom-house revenue with some exactness, if greater attention were paid to the statistics of imports. Every package of imported goods represents a certain value on which a fixed amount of duty should have been paid.

If a trustworthy person were appointed to obtain bills of lading and the invoices of their goods from the merchants, it would be little trouble to calculate the amount of duty which must have been paid, allowing always a certain margin on the merchant's account.

Severe proceedings against officials guilty of dishonesty and better pay for those who have to incur any responsibility in the exercise of their functions would put an end to the majority of the abuses committed.

I am confident that if these affairs were managed with energy and propriety the proceeds of the Customs in Turkey might be nearly doubled, without in the least affecting the interests of the European importers and manufacturers, or becoming in any way a heavier charge on the consumers.

Evkaf.—There are different classes or kinds of landed property which are under the control of this branch of the administration—

1. Properties belonging to private families, but which have been made by will into what might be called a "majorat," in so far as the properties cannot be sold, but the revenue has to go to the heirs, after a deduction of one-eighth for the Evkaf, destined for the support of the mosques, which are generally designated in the will.

With respect to these properties, nothing can be done towards increasing the Government revenue; but it would be highly desirable to keep them under strict supervision, in order that the due amount might be employed for the repair of the schools or places of worship.

2. Properties, the entire revenue of which is destined for clerical purposes. Here it is urgently necessary to institute systematic proceedings, in order to secure to the public buildings the full benefit of the wills made in their favour. The revenue of large and valuable lands is annually absorbed by the administrators of the different districts, nothing being done for the repair or embellishment of the

mosques and schools, whilst the lands and gardens go to ruin for want of proper attention.

3. A large number of private houses and other places owe a certain percentage or a fixed amount of taxes to be paid every year to the Evkaf, because the ground on which they stand formerly belonged to it. Even in Constantinople the majority of the buildings have to pay rent to this branch of the Administration.

By capitalizing the different rents at a certain rate of interest, the owners would be rid of a vexatious tax; and a considerable sum of ready money might be obtained by freeing the houses and lands from their interminable leases.

4. The Evkaf owns large tracts of land, especially in the interior of Asiatic Turkey, which are utterly neglected, but would be fit for cultivation or any other purpose if handed over to private speculation.

These properties should be sold and the proceeds capitalized on good terms, so that the income would probably be equivalent to the sum now annually employed for the repair of the mosques in the different provinces. A true statement of the real expenses of the whole Empire would show how very little is done for the proper keeping up of houses of worship, whilst large salaries are annually paid to an immense number of officials who are of no earthly use to the Administration.

Entirely different results might be soon obtained if every separate community were allowed to superintend the proper management of the Evkaf properties lying within its limits, and to fix the necessary amount for their improvement, and by making its members responsible for the surplus of revenue to be handed over to the Government Treasury. These communities would at the same time become more interested in public affairs if they had something to regulate and arrange by their own influence. In fact, this would be a kind of school for the citizens in public affairs, and prepare them for entertaining more important questions.

5. With regard to the taxes usually levied on the sheep, cattle, and horses, I have already shown the rational method of securing the full amount of this revenue to the Treasury, and I do not think that a better one is to be found under present circumstances.

It is the same in regard to the tithes, which might, in my opinion, be changed into land taxes, to be levied on the private landed properties, according to their yearly rent or to their real value, as the case might be.

Government lands must be sold, as they only decrease in value every year through not being properly cultivated, and are left by the present leaseholder in a state of exhaustion simply for his own advantage, whilst, if placed in private hands, Government would receive the same income, although the capital now invested in the lands would have been withdrawn and used for the supply of the most urgent wants.

I believe that an income-tax of 2 per mil. on an income of 500 to 1,000 piastres, and $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on incomes exceeding 1,000 piastres, and of 6 per mil. or $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. on an income of 2,000 piastres and upwards, might be applied to the whole population without exception, whether strangers, rayahs, private persons, or Government officials.

On the other hand, many vexatious taxes, which scarcely cover the expenses consequent on their collection, might be abolished, as for the most part they only weigh heavily on the very poorest class of the population, and only serve to keep up a great number of idlers, whose especial duty it is to harass their fellow-creatures.

If Government would only allow private intelligence and private capital to be employed in the thousands of enterprises which offer a promising field to the speculator, so long as neither its authority nor its vital interests suffered by these enterprises, the benefit derived from them indirectly would be enormous.

No mines would lie idle; communication by rail and river would soon be established, and would contribute to the general welfare of the country; lands of immense extent, now lying neglected, would be utilized by making dams on some mountain-streams or opening canals for irrigation, traces of which are still left from the times when the whole country was in a flourishing condition.

If there is one objection to be made, it is that the population is not sufficient for the cultivation of the whole country.

But why not allow Hindoos and Chinese to be introduced into the southern part of the Empire by enterprising people, properly supported by the Gouernment. It would be beneficial to those countries whose inhabitants die by thousands through

over-population, and immensely advantageous in every way to the Turkish Government.

The Mussulman population of European Turkey, instead of being allowed to starve in their places of refuge, or to be ill-treated through the fanaticism of their Christian countrymen, might be removed at very little cost by private Companies to different parts of Syria, Armenia, or the north of Mesopotamia, where they would build new houses, re-populate the district, and form a new stronghold of the Turkish Government against Eastern invasion.

Moreover, with a fairly settled Government, half of the present army might be disbanded, and thousands of men in the prime of life would return to their homes, and for the most part devote their time and labour to the cares of agriculture, thereby increasing the general wealth, and at the same time decreasing the heavy expenses of the army.

One of the most important measures, and which ought to concern the whole Empire, is the regulation, or rather the institution of a proper register of the "Cadaster," which would simplify the evaluation of the taxes, give the necessary security to the owners, and protect them from being harassed by the more influential class.

I feel sure that almost everybody connected with Eastern affairs knows what is wanted, and the Turkish Government even feels more keenly than any other the necessity for doing something towards the improvement of its financial position, and for the satisfaction of its subjects with regard to the civil administration and political liberty; but what I cannot find is the energy which is utterly necessary for the carrying out of the promised reforms.

In its present situation it would be unjust to expect the Turkish Government to display the necessary spirit and activity under constant pressure from European diplomats, who up to this day have done nothing whatever for the amelioration of the present critical state of affairs, but, on the contrary, stir up continual and everlasting intrigues between the different Ministers on the one side and the "Mâ-behû," or Sultan's Palace, on the other.

Europe, instead of stretching out a hand for the practical help of the Empire, seems to have abandoned the idea of even saving from the wreck the smallest fraction of the millions paid in only a few years ago by the inhabitants, and tries to persuade itself that diplomatical notes will suffice to regenerate a country deprived of every means of satisfying even the most pressing wants.

It requires but very little experience in these matters to understand this—that if Turkey is left in the hands of Greek and Armenian bankers, who lend her sufficient money to live (so to speak) from hand to mouth on the strict understanding that any revenues which are the most easy to secure and to turn into cash are to be accredited to their different representatives in the provinces, these bankers will in the first place look out solely for their own interests, and exact the hardest conditions from a Government which is entirely in their power, so that their apparent help will in fact accelerate its ruin.

I could name persons who lent money to the Treasury in Constantinople partly in cash, partly in ("serguis") bonds, in favour of the bearer (obtainable at 30 to 40 reduction) against an assignment on the province, which was collected in about six months' time, and this at the rate of 2 for 100 at 12 per cent. interest.

Would it not have been better for all concerned if those Governments which are most deeply interested in the welfare of Turkey had conjointly agreed to sacrifice a few millions in order to give the Turkish Government time to breathe after the severe struggle with Russia, as well as with its own subjects? It would have been a practical proof of their sincere intention to support Turkey against both internal and external enemies, and it would have attracted the sympathy of the people, who, with all its moral influence, would have forced the Government to lend a willing ear to their well-meant advice, and to follow it conscientiously to the extent of its ability.

Instead of allowing a few bankers to secure for themselves the best part of the Imperial revenues, and thereby make it terribly difficult for the Empire to recover from the successive blows under which it had staggered during the last four years, the resources of the country should have been carefully studied and skilfully exploited for the benefit of the Turkish Government as well as of its creditors. The millions spent in the manner suggested would have brought them an immediate and large return by the salutary effect it would have had on the mind of the whole of Europe, and especially of Turkey.

The continual anxiety caused by the unsettled state of Oriental affairs would have yielded to a firm belief in their eventually fortuitous development. European trade and industry would have benefited by this circumstance. Turkish funds would now have become of some real value, and in two or three years many families who are now on the verge of utter ruin might have obtained a small interest on their investments, or have changed their Turkish bonds for safer securities, on less ruinous conditions.

Every pound of the money so spent would have brought its equivalent to the Governments which advanced it, as well as to their respective subjects, and no money would ever have been invested at a more propitious moment or with a greater certainty of an immediately beneficial result.

Now, what has been done towards securing Turkey against her external enemies, towards quieting the mind of the commercial world, or towards giving to the miserable populations of this great Empire the happiness which has been promised them? Nothing!

During the last twelve months Turkey was, on the contrary, brought to the brink of ruin through the agency of Europe.

Not content with refusing the slightest help, Europe only showed her cleverness by abandoning the Sultan to the mercy of his rapacious friends—the Greek and Armenian "Serafs," and to a disunited, puzzled Ministry, who did not know how to satisfy pressing wants and foreign pretensions, or claims and complaints from the interior on the one side and the different Embassies on the other.

"Reforms must be made and carried through," says the Treaty of Berlin. With this end in view, Commissions, however useless and expensive they may be, must be sent into the interior of Asiatic Turkey; but no one ever thought of beginning the reforms where they were most wanted, namely, in the empty Treasury.

How can the Government and the people of Turkey believe in the sincerity of European friendship when no actual proof is given of it? So is it a subject for wonder if everything coming from that quarter, and especially from England, meets at the present day with a strong opposition.

These are the consequences of the patronizing Government of Cyprus. Could anything better be expected of Turkey under present circumstances?

The natural consequence of all this is, that Turkey is actually in a worse position than she was two years ago; that the influence of Europe is really on the decrease, in spite of the readiness with which a Turkish Minister may bow to an Ambassador; that even the people of Turkey begin to have a very poor idea of European promises, or of its much talked-of civilization; that the provinces of Asiatic Turkey fall one by one into a state of utter anarchy; that the Government revenues are either withheld by the population or farmed by a banking corporation, represented by agents in different places, whose only object it must be to turn to their own advantage any influence they may possess over officials; that an open field is presented for Russian intrigues in those parts of the Empire which feel the keenest disappointment at the failure of Western influence.

But not only to Turkey has this policy proved disadvantageous. Europe suffers as well from the present state of affairs, and more especially do those of her inhabitants, who, having acted as pioneers in these countries, expected one day to see real progress made, and to find an opportunity of placing the knowledge and experience they had gained both of land and people at the disposal of some genuine reformer.

Hundreds of schemes have been contemplated, with the object of utilizing the numerous resources of the country for the benefit of foreign capital and Turkish finance. Whilst at the present moment the capital is not forthcoming to invest in a land whose Sovereign has no proper authority over its inhabitants, and is neither capable nor desirous of protecting foreign interests. Everything considered, who is the loser in the end—Turkey or Europe?

I would say nothing about philanthropy with regard to the Eastern question. We have seen what it did for Bulgaria, and what is its present result? This sentiment weighs but lightly in the scale against political interest, and may sometimes be used to cover a move on the chess-board of nations.

Still, is it not pitiful to see so many millions of inhabitants in one of the fairest countries of the world abandoned to their fate without a guide for the future, and thus destined to become morally the victims of a wrong view of the matter and of a mistaken policy.

Already I hear the general objection that the Turks would not be guided, that they wish to be left to themselves, and that they are not capable or worthy of a better fate, because they are stubborn and disunited in their Councils.

And to this I make answer—if you will give the substantial help of money to the Sultan and his few intimate advisers, they will begin to listen to you and to believe your word.

Further, that if you really and truly do your best to secure the Sultan's confidence, he will gladly be guided by you in the selection of Ministers and Governors, by whose aid you will then be able to introduce genuine reforms, and to exploit and develop the immense resources of the country.

The money spent in this manner would cause double that amount to be saved in armaments, and give to thousands upon thousands a new field wherein to gain a livelihood.

The Turks are certainly right to refuse to make concessions to foreign pretensions, so long as they meet with nothing but irritating treatment in return. If we show our superiority in every respect they will be obliged to yield, or to make room for others of their own accord. But I think that this would be a mistake, as for many years—even for a whole generation—every nationality existent on Turkish soil, with the exception of the Osmanli, has proved itself incapable of governing the country.

What is needed is, therefore, not an entire upsetting of the present state of things, but a gradually progressive Government, supported by advisers at once friendly and practical, and guided, if necessary, by an energetic surveyance which will neither allow the Government nor the officials to stray from the programme insisted on.

England has learnt from her experience of the last two years in Cyprus how difficult it is to overcome the evil habits of long growth in Eastern lands, and from which quarter the greatest opposition is to be expected. The head of the clergy was the first to be affected by the activity of a Western Administration, whilst his class, on the contrary, ought to have been the foremost in welcoming and supporting any civilizing reforms. How many such enemies to the improvement of their countrymen's condition will the reformer meet with in the execution of his projects? Behind every church door and convent gate, within every Council which consists of the most wealthy and influential men of the district, you must expect a foe to all reform.

It will be a difficult task to persuade the Turkish Government to enter what we should consider the path of real administrative progress; but the difficulty might be overcome by energy, combined with judicious management. But when the scheme adopted by Government is brought into execution, the reformer will find still greater obstacles in store for him. I should not be surprised if resistance were made in several districts by an armed opposition, whilst in other places a low undercurrent of intrigues will probably baffle the efforts of the honest reformer, and put his energy and patience to the severest test.

This much is certain—if energetic measures are not taken at once to enforce reforms the Turkish Government, already on the brink of ruin, will fall over the verge, and lose all influence over the Mussulman population, let alone the rest; a state of complete anarchy will soon prevail, and anyone intending to interfere in the future will have a task of double difficulty before him.

East and north are on the look out to take advantage of the first opportunity to sow discontent amongst the different populations, and to excite the diverse creeds against each other.

Before concluding my reflections on this subject, I beg to ask what good result can ever be attained in Constantinople so long as the Ministry is composed of such men as Kadri Pasha, who, as a "would-be" enlightened Turk, imbued with European principles, bought a slave in Bagdad the day before he was appointed Minister of the Interior, and got rid of her almost directly afterwards?

These are the men who sign Treaties for the abolition of slavery!

The Government of Constantinople is at present in the hands of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, assisted by the advice of faithful old servants, who are tolerably sincere in their intentions, but are unfortunately checked by the Council of Ministers, amongst whom Sawas Pasha is probably the only man who is really desirous of doing that which is right, whilst the rest generally consider their own interests first.